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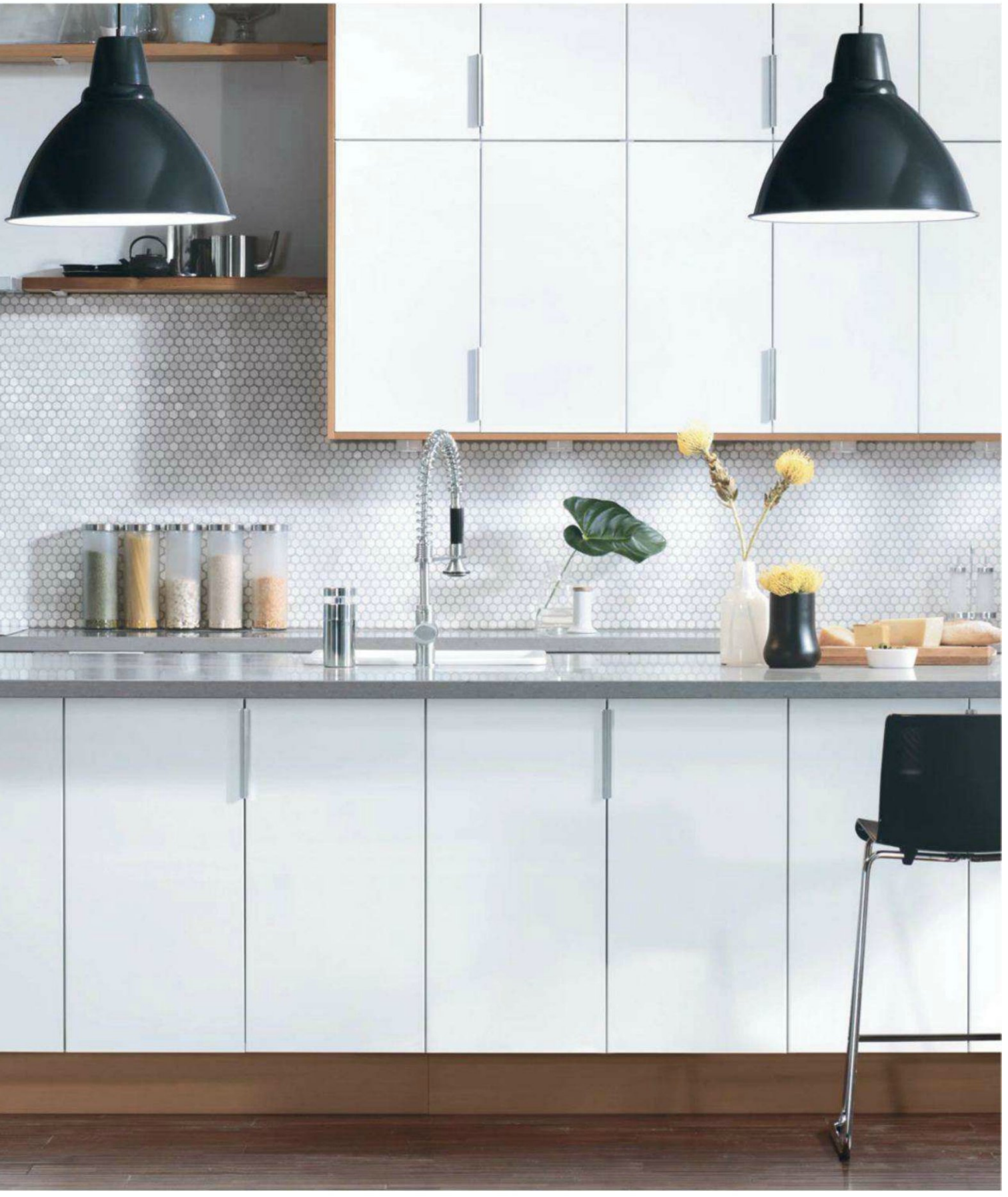

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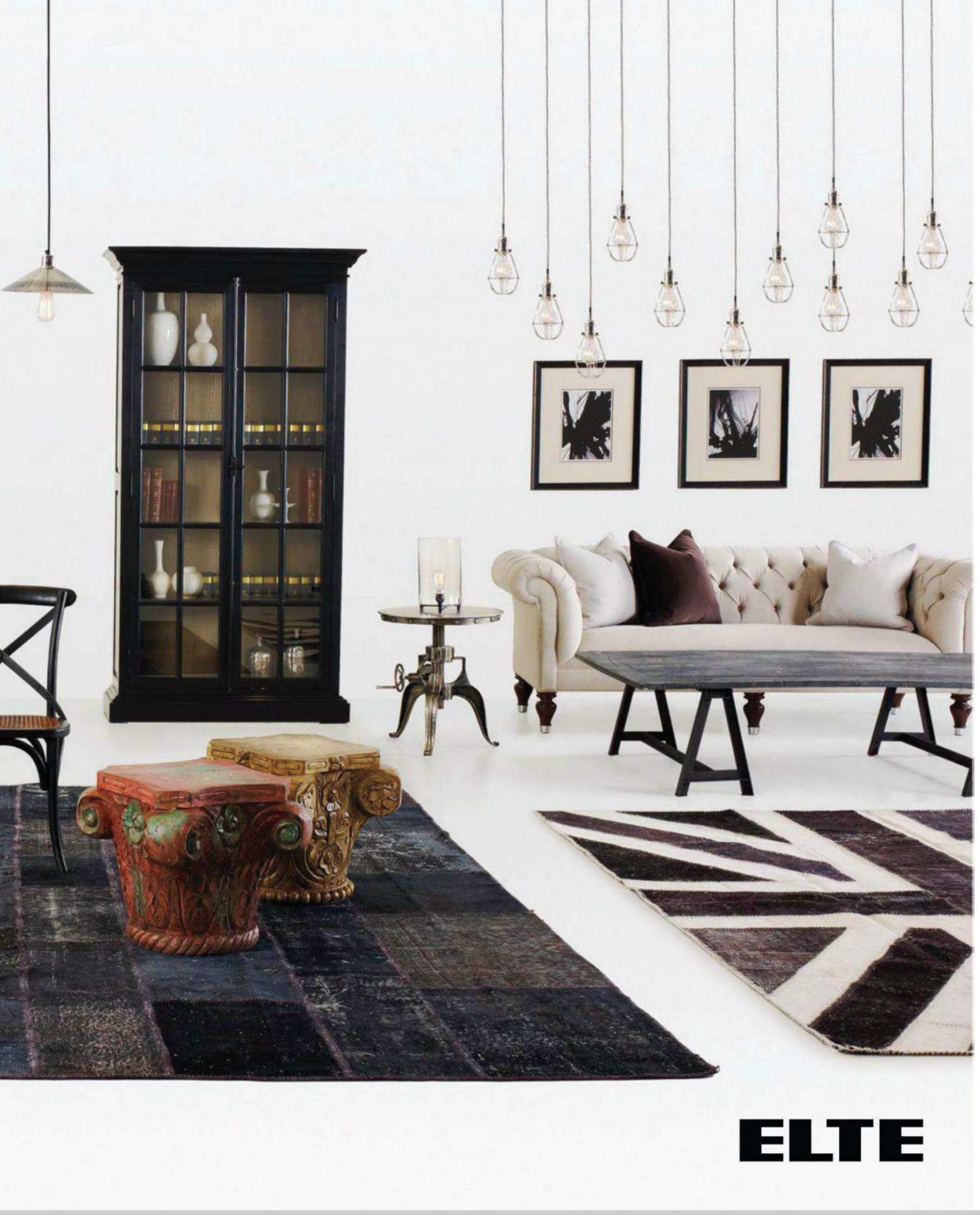
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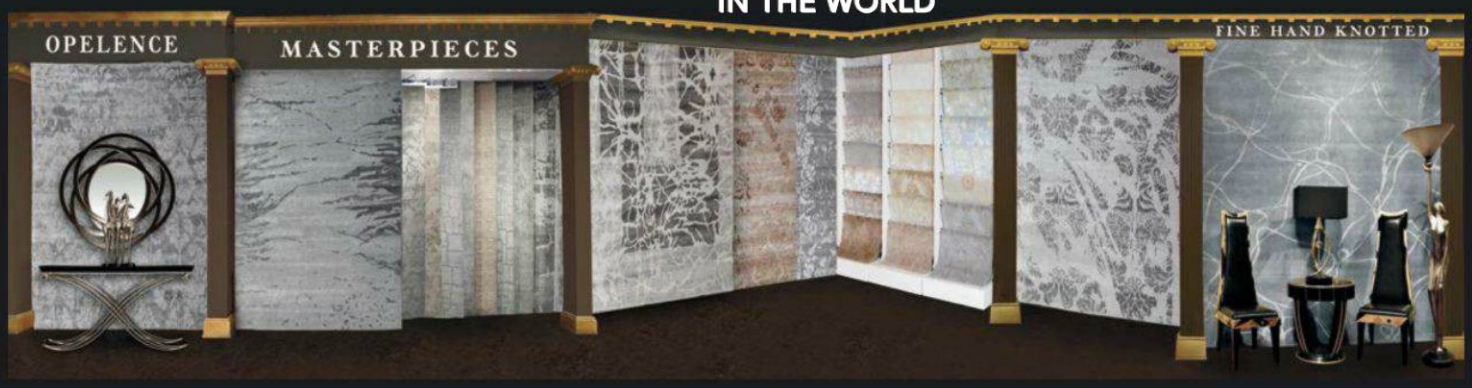

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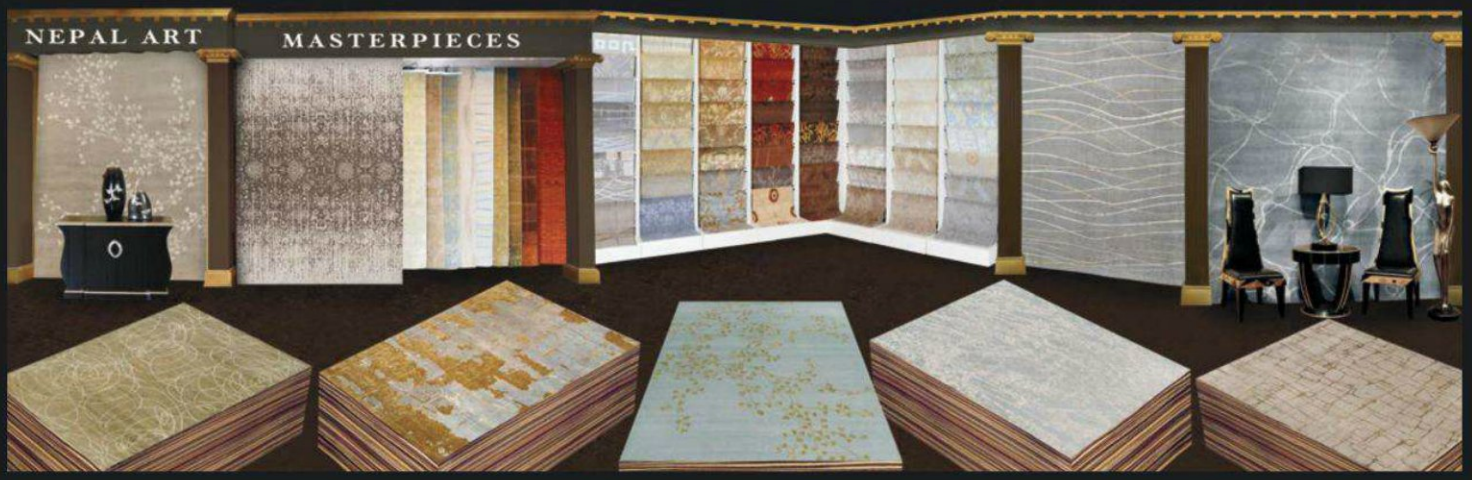

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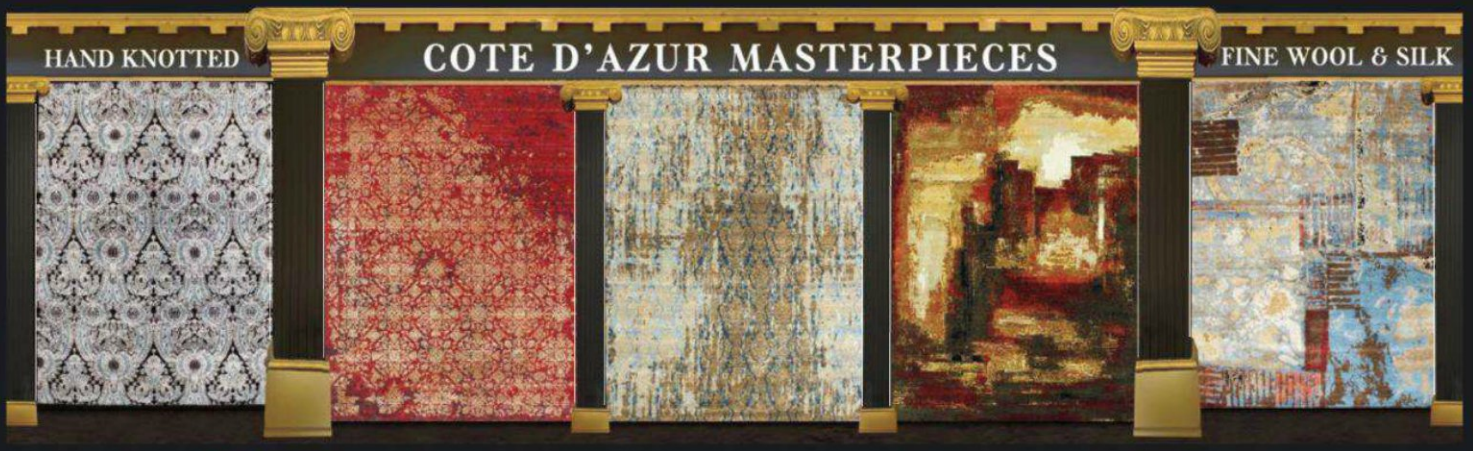

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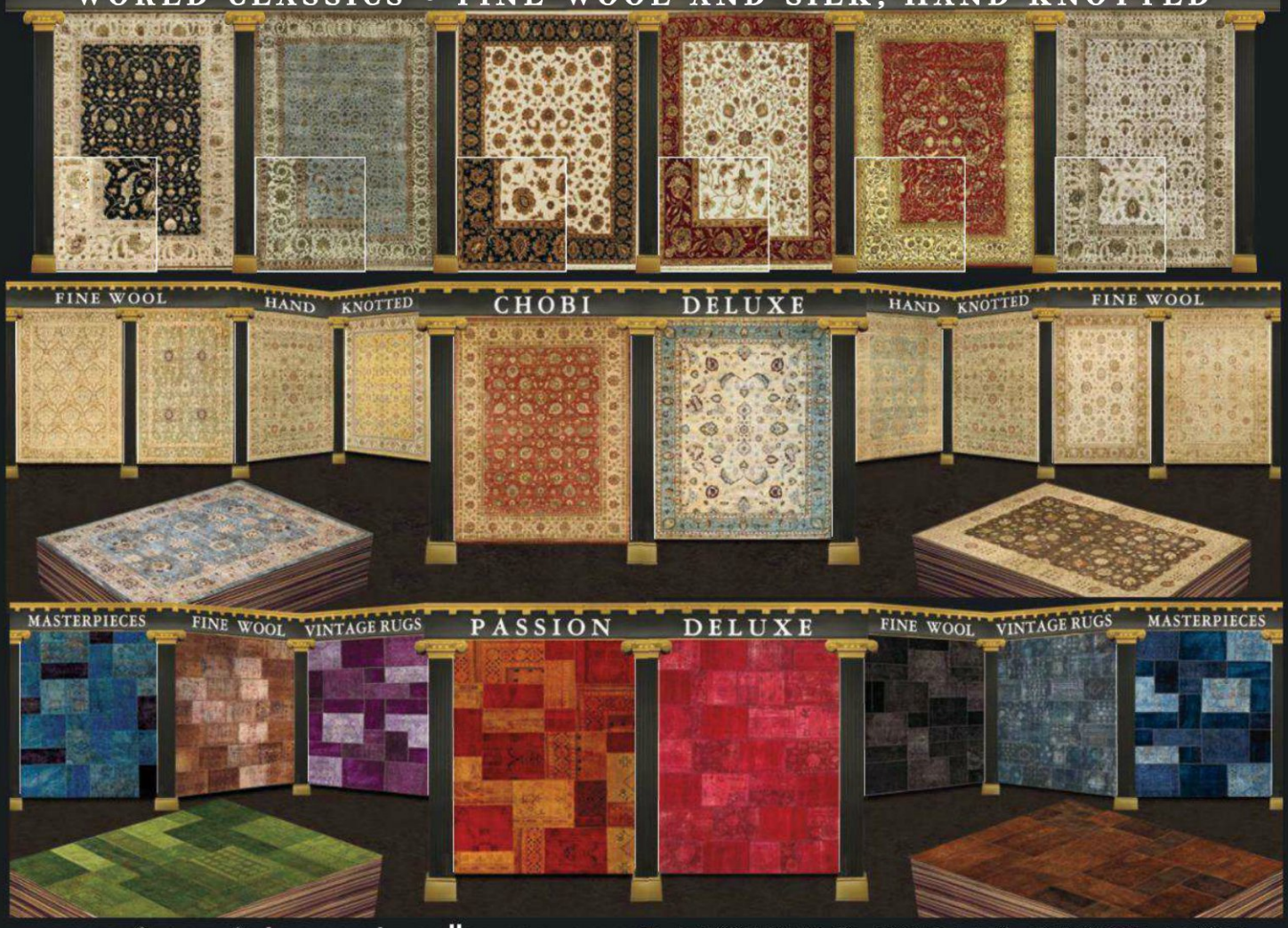

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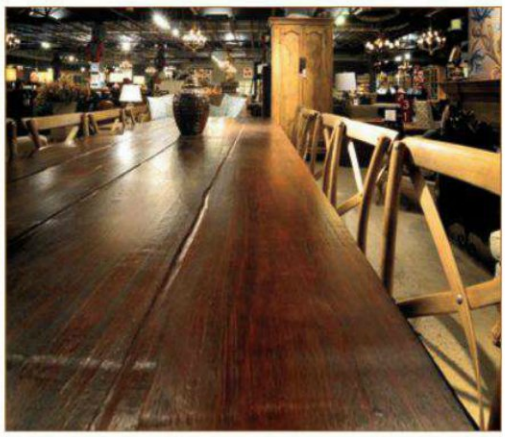

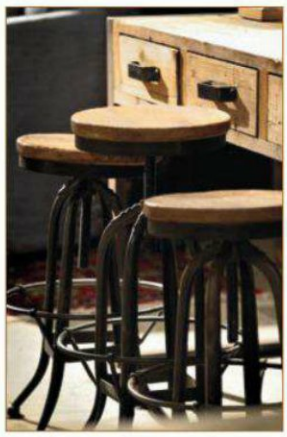

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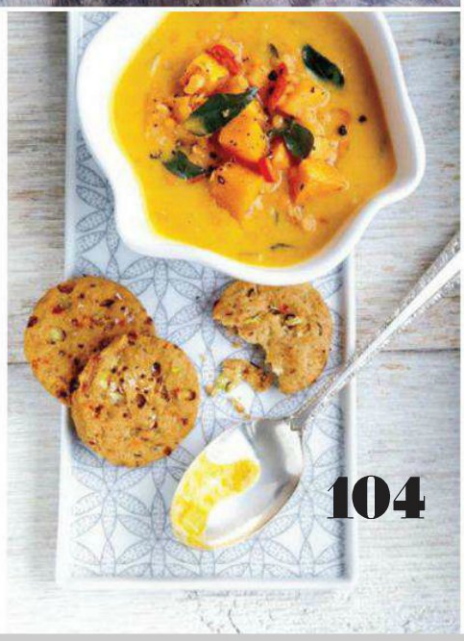
ON THE COVER
Industrial meets elegant in this streamlined kitchen **96**

PHOTOGRAPHY
Virginia Macdonald



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SCENE STEALER
Since I was a kid, I've been fascinated with renovations. After decades of watching renovations – and then being part of them – I know there's nothing more satisfying than to see a tired space come alive. If it's true that the kitchen is where the heart is, I can assure you that my heart (sorry, Ken!) is firmly tiled into my glorious new backsplash.

Renovating a kitchen is like getting married. First, you have to find the right partner, and then you can make your plan for the big event. When renovating a kitchen, you need to hire someone to help you pull it all together – "it takes a village" as they say. Once you have your team, you gain momentum and work day by day for a seemingly endless amount of time. Every week is taken up wrestling with the minutiae of each feature (and with urgent decision-making for all those details) and soon no one sees the forest for the trees. And then there's the reality check, where you thought you had Plan A, and perhaps Plan B, but somehow along the way you ended up with Actuality C.

Next on the list comes the jitters: Did I choose a compatible partner? Are we a good fit? Have I made the right decision? And after you work through that, it's all a whirlwind before the big day itself – a joyous celebration where all the preparation, decision-making and anticipation culminate in one fabulous unveiling! The post-party relief follows, after everyone has left, and you're finally allowed to take off your too-tight shoes, let your hair down and relax into your new life together.

This analogy sums up the excitement and delight of every single day of my kitchen reno (see the results on page 96). The tears, the laughter, the petty tantrums. With an amazing team of suppliers, designers and, of course, friends and family weighing in, Croma Design's brilliant rendering of a spectacular family kitchen has finally come to life.

But the people I really need to thank are all of you, *Style at Home*'s loyal and dedicated readers. It's because of your participation in our kitchen contest eight months ago and your enthusiastic votes that this kitchen is now built.

Erin

Erin McLaughlin erin@styleathome.com

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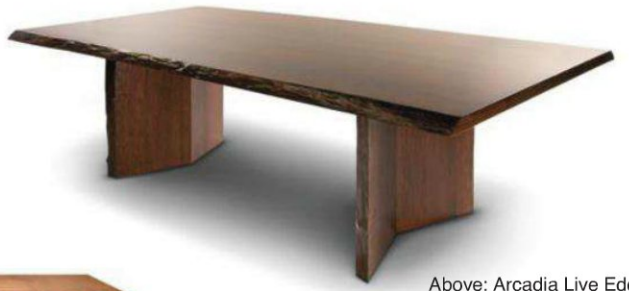

Above: Arcadia Live Edge Table
Left: Turnbuckle Table
Below: Metropolitan Table

Left: Newport Entertainment Unit
Below: Algonquin Bedroom

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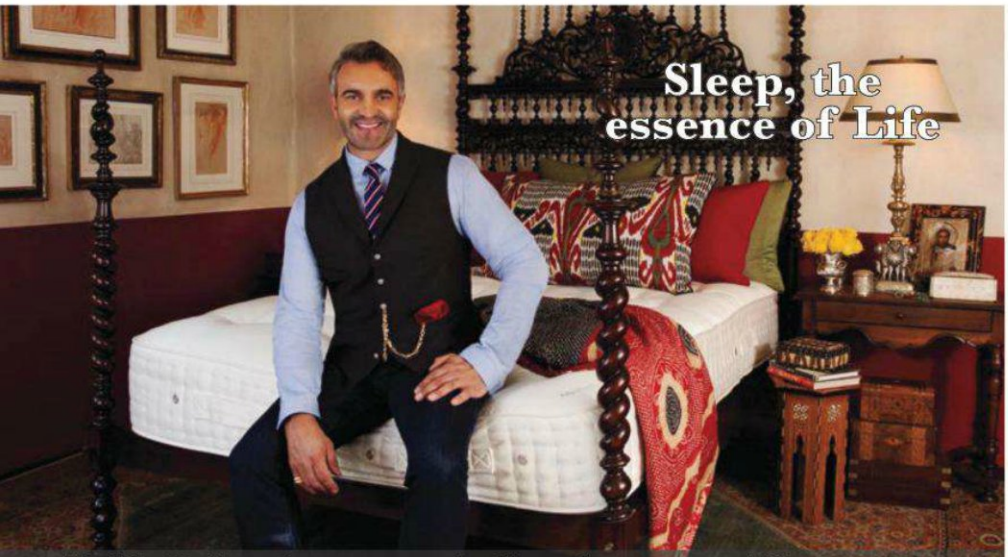

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Fresh from her trip to Bologna, editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** will give a first-hand account of the latest design trends and innovations from Italy at IDS on Jan. 28, presented by Ceramics of Italy and sponsored by Confindustria Ceramica, the Association of Italian Ceramics.

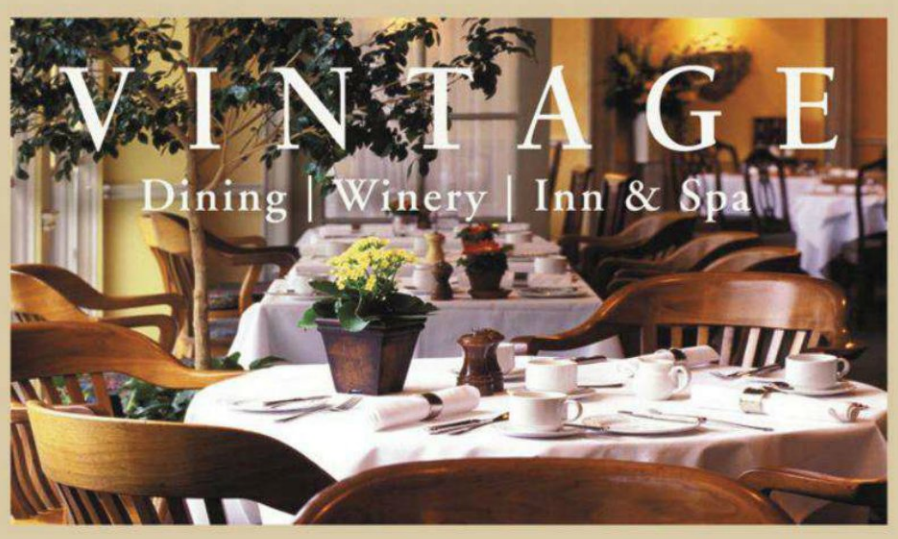
For more info and to buy tickets, visit **interiordesignshow.com.**

WE'RE ON TV!

Catch design editor **Jessica Waks** on Citytv's *CityLine* on Feb. 21. Check your local listings for showtimes.

Don't miss editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** on CBC's *Steven and Chris*. For air dates and times, check your local listings or go to cbc.ca/stevenandchris.

Editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin on set with Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman.



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BEHIND THE SCENES

Executive editor **Suzanne Moutis** looks over final images at the photo shoot for our "Soup & Crackers" story. See the delicious results on page 104.

Associate editor **Sara Cation** (left) and assistant editor **Amanda Etty** with renowned designer **Barbara Barry** at Studio B's grand reopening in Toronto. Read the interview in our March 2012 issue.

WISH YOU WERE THERE

Smiles were plentiful as guests sipped on cocktails and shopped for festive decor items at a private *Style at Home* shopping event at West Elm on December 7.

Editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin (right) and editorial assistant Eryn Chesney.

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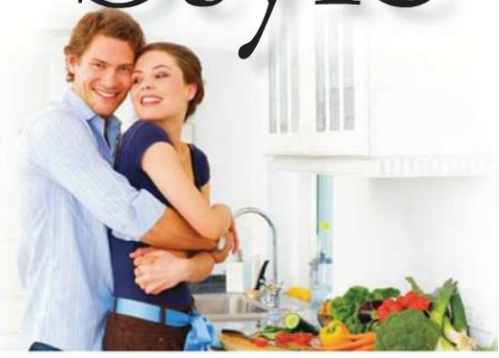

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If you could **change** one thing in your **kitchen** on a **budget,** what would it be?

50% cabinets and drawers

28% new appliances

11% accessories

11% paint colour

what's your **view?**

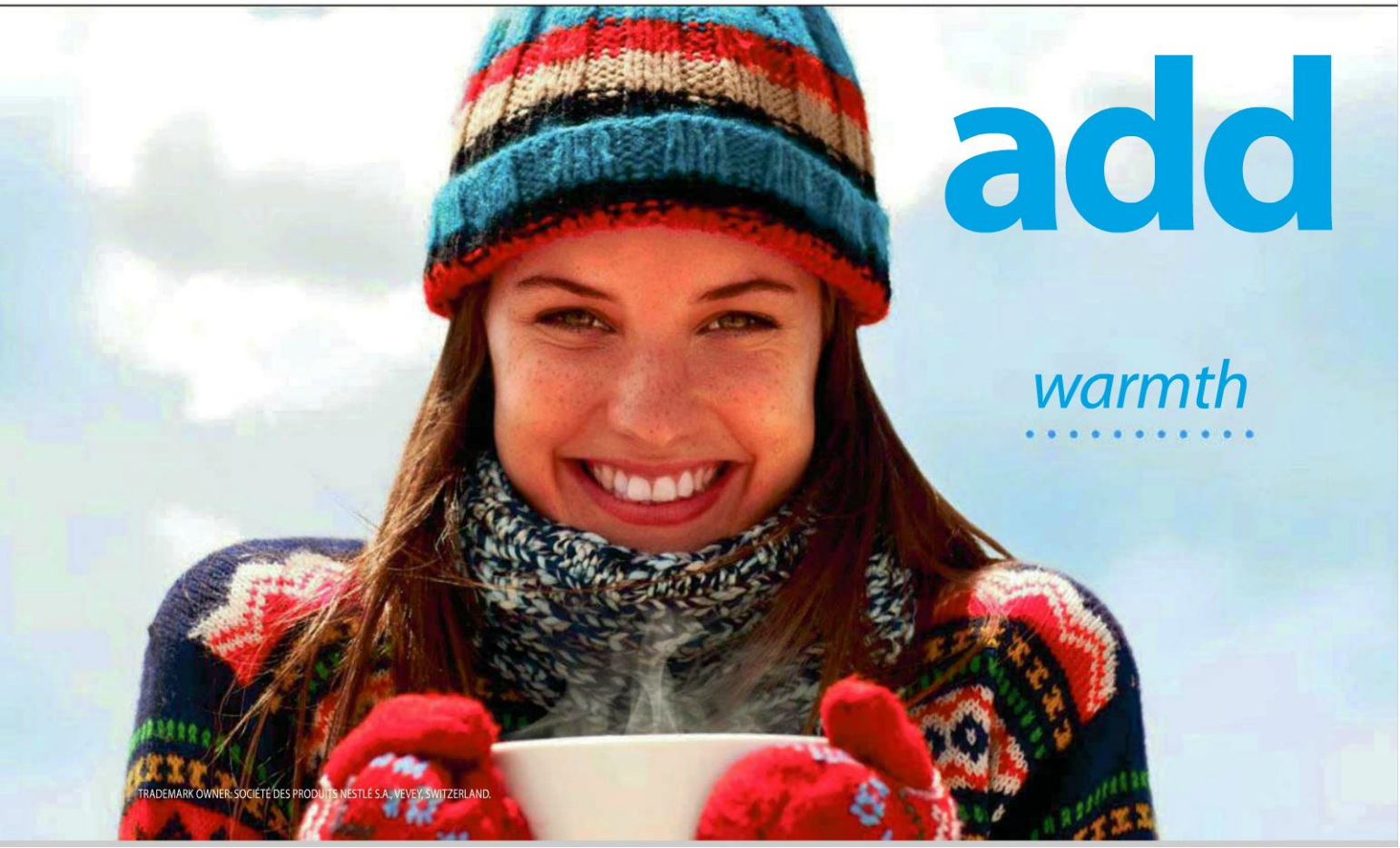
Do you think your **furniture placement** is limiting the size of your home?

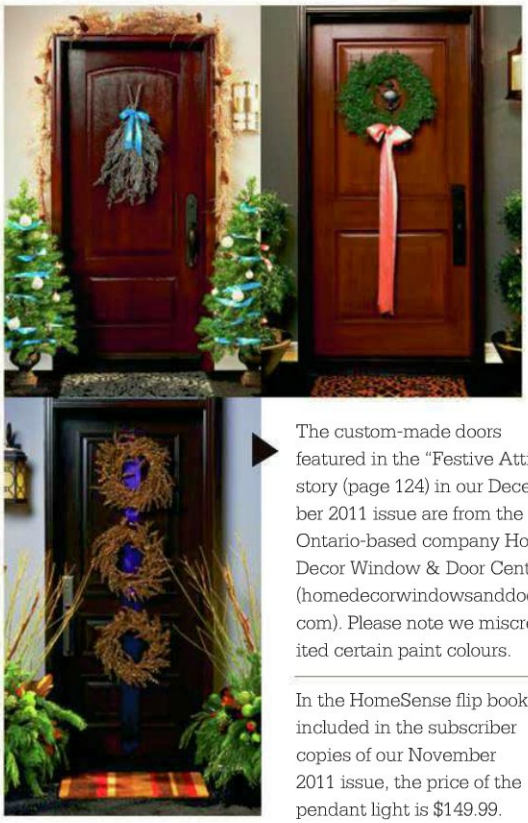
Give us your opinion for next month's poll
styleathome.com/polls

If you could make one **room** in your house **bigger,** which would you choose?

Looking at your **closet** right now, how much time would it take to **organize** it?

PHOTOGRAPHY, VIRGINIA MACDONALD





The custom-made doors featured in the "Festive Attire" story (page 124) in our December 2011 issue are from the Ontario-based company Home Decor Window & Door Centre (homedecorwindowsanddoors.com). Please note we miscredited certain paint colours.

In the HomeSense flip book included in the subscriber copies of our November 2011 issue, the price of the pendant light is $149.99.

S@H READERS TWEET

"The best 4:50 p.m. hump-day surprise: the extra-big December issue of *Style at Home* in our mailbox!"
@DuetPR

"Thanks, *Style at Home*, for all the fabulous spreads today. Loving this month's issue!"
@jillianharris

"Getting inspiration from *Style at Home* for some DIY Christmas decorations. I can't wait to decorate!"
@missDotey

"Really want to try some of the cute felt crafts (did I just say that?) in the *Style at Home* December issue!"
@InteriorGroupie

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we love to hear from you!

Email us at letters@styleathome.com, write us at *Style at Home*, Letters from Home, 25 Sheppard Ave. W., Suite 100, Toronto, Ont. M2N 6S7, or fax us at 416-218-3632.

BOLD VISIONS

Thanks for putting together such a great magazine. I always look forward to each issue to see what great ideas you have. I'm currently going through a major renovation that has taken up the past five years and it's finally in the last stages. *Style at Home* has really helped me choose the colour scheme. I've decided to go bold and dramatic, with lots of black, blue and, of course, neutrals. Thanks again for such a great magazine!

GERMAINE, via email

A SMALL REQUEST

I love your magazine, but I'm wondering if you could feature more articles on solutions for small spaces? I live in a 600-square-foot apartment, and would love to learn how I could decorate such a small space without spending a fortune. So far, I think I've done a pretty good job, but I feel like I need something more and would love to hear some of your suggestions!

TRUDY LINDSAY, via email

Check out our **March 2012** issue for lots of smart **small-space solutions!**

your flavour

Bring your coffee to life with the velvety, rich flavour of French Vanilla Coffee-mate.

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5 kitchens WE LOVE

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WIN THIS!

Panasonic Genius Inverter Microwave

This month, you could win a Panasonic Genius Inverter microwave. This microwave makes preparing dinner quick and easy without compromising the quality of your food. It comes with a "keep warm" function for those who take a bit longer to get to the table. Panasonic's state-of-the-art Inverter technology adjusts the power levels to maintain the texture, flavour and nutritional value of foods to prevent overcooking!

To enter, visit styleathome.com/newsletter.

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TOP 10 KITCHEN renovation tips

styleathome.com/renovationtips

PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY VAN BERKEL-HAINES, DONNA GRIFFITH

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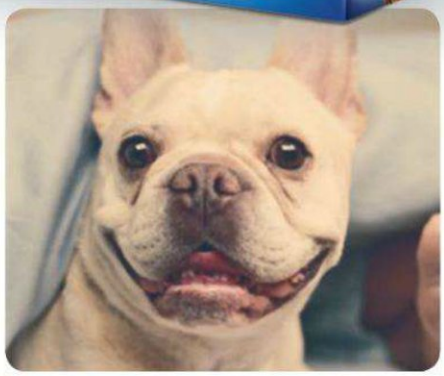

kibblesnbits.ca

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the chef's special

Give your kitchen a dash of restaurant flair with the addition of a chalkboard. The matte black ornate frame gives it the right amount of *je ne sais quoi*, and topped with a quote from your favourite chef, who could resist the temptation to make this simple project? To learn how to make our project of the month, see our Workbook.

stylenews

PRODUCER JESSICA WAKS

Decor, trends, style ideas and more – we bring you the latest and greatest inspirations.

Förhöja **KITCHEN CART,** $149, IKEA, ikea.ca; Rust-Oleum Specialty **CHALKBOARD PAINT,** Behr Anonymous 780F-5 **WALL PAINT,** The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA; STYLING, CATHERINE THERRIEN

AT ARM'S LENGTH

THESE LINEAR CHANDELIERS MAKE A SERIOUS STATEMENT, WHETHER CRAFTED IN THE CLASSIC STYLINGS OF A BILLIARD FIXTURE OR REINTERPRETED FROM ICONIC MODERN DESIGN.

$359

AFFORDABLE SPARE
Long Arm **CHANDELIER** in Black, West Elm, westelm.com.

FROM $1,800 US

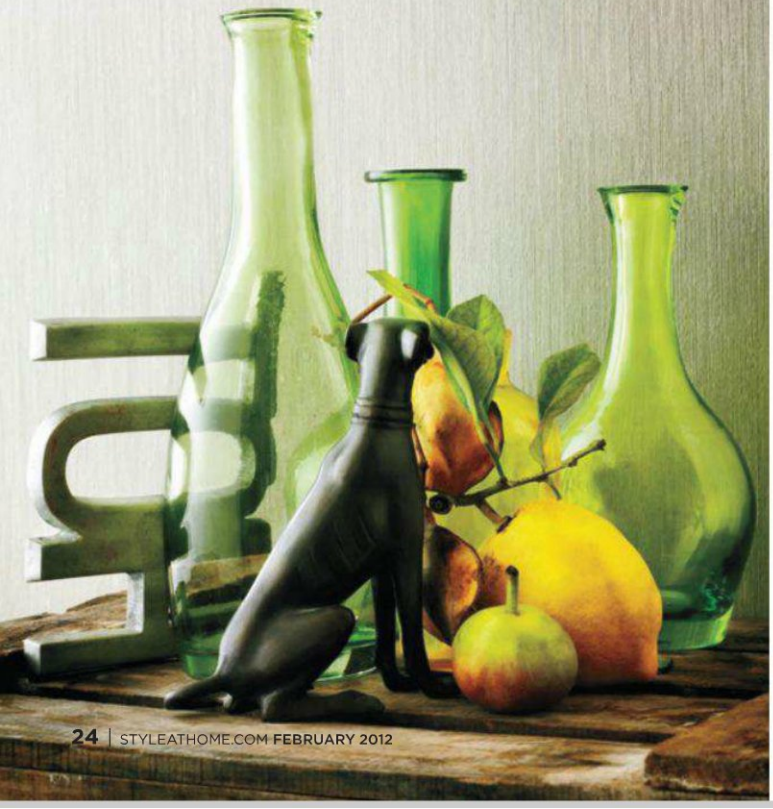
TRADITIONALLY DETAILED
Blue Pointe Classic Billiard Room **CEILING FIXTURE,** Rejuvenation, rejuvenation.com.

Black Agne **BAR STOOLS,** $35 each, IKEA, ikea.ca; 30994-35 **FABRIC,** $150 per yard, through designers, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom, kravetcanada.com.

WHICH WAY IS UP?

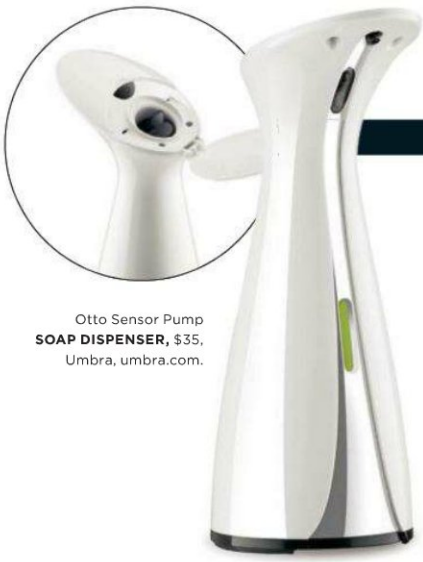
A lustrous linen wallcovering that's available in a wide spectrum of shades (36 to be exact!), Novalin boasts not only a seamless look that lends itself to both horizontal and vertical applications but it's wipeable, too, making it a welcome yet unexpected choice in the kitchen.

Fanny Aronsen Novalin **WALLCOVERING** in 934, $500 per 8-metre roll, through designers, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom, kravetcanada.com.



outside the box

We love how quick and easy it is to turn IKEA's Agne bar stools into one-of-a-kind show-stoppers by upholstering the seats in your favourite fabric.



Otto Sensor Pump **SOAP DISPENSER,** $35, Umbra, umbra.com.

PUMP IT UP

With gentle curves reminiscent of a carafe, the Otto Sensor Pump from Umbra turns a utilitarian automated soap dispenser into a stylish way to fight the spread of germs.

PHOTOGRAPHY, VIRGINIA MACDONALD (BAR STOOLS)

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respect
happiness
passion
drive
triumph
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Manton, William Yeoward's latest collection for Designers Guild, is set to launch at Primavera (primavera.ca) in February, available through designers.

Series 3 Collection **HARDWARE,** from $12 US each, Du Verre The Hardware Co., duverre.com.

ebbs and flows

The Series 3 Collection by Scot Laughton is both eco-friendly and ergonomic, but it's the fluid nature and organic touch that it lends to cabinetry that we love best.

KING OF KING'S ROAD

AS HE GEARS UP FOR HIS VISIT TO TORONTO FOR THE INTERIOR DESIGN SHOW AND THE LAUNCH OF HIS NEWEST COLLECTION, CELEBRATED BRITISH DESIGN ICON WILLIAM YEOWARD TALKS INSPIRATION, HOW TO BE A GOOD HOST AND MORE.

Q: You've maintained a successful design career over two decades, what continues to inspire your work?

A: One can be inspired by the most unexpected things in the most unexpected places. Two examples: One was a cabbage in my local farm shop! Have you actually looked at a cabbage properly? They are truly beautiful and a great colour reference. Two, a cornice on Hagia Sophia, a church in Istanbul, which to me looked like a great cut pattern for my crystal. We're surrounded by inspiration – we simply need to open our eyes and our minds.

Q: With so many varied collections under your name, what is your favourite medium to work with?

A: My joy is that when I work with a medium, it becomes my focus. Although one can quite forget how one got involved with so many different disciplines, as soon as one touches them they become alive again. I find fabric and crystal particularly appealing.

Q: With an identity so closely entwined with London's famed King's Road, what do you feel exemplifies British style?

A: British style comes with some iconic references. Whether it be a Bentley, a Savile Row suit or a piece of my crystal, people will hopefully recognize its solidity, credibility and, above all, true Britishness.

Q: What are you most looking forward to when you visit Canada for the Interior Design Show?

A: Well, what a question! Seeing Canada and the best of Canadian design in its natural habitat. *Vive le Toronto!*

Q: You're known for being an avid entertainer and consummate host. What is one golden piece of advice you would give to someone throwing her first dinner party?

A: Remember that your guests will only ever be as relaxed as their host, so no first-time recipes!

BERRY BEAUTIES

Geometric pattern play in a palette of juicy berry and aubergine tones makes this new limited edition collection of toss cushions from Vancouver's Provide Home a delicious addition to your coziest chair or sofa.

Provide Made **TOSS CUSHIONS,** from $180 each, Provide Home, providehome.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, JANIS NICOLAY (TOSS CUSHIONS)

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with 7 age-defying effects."
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Thandie Newton, actress
Brighten
Hydrate
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against the grain

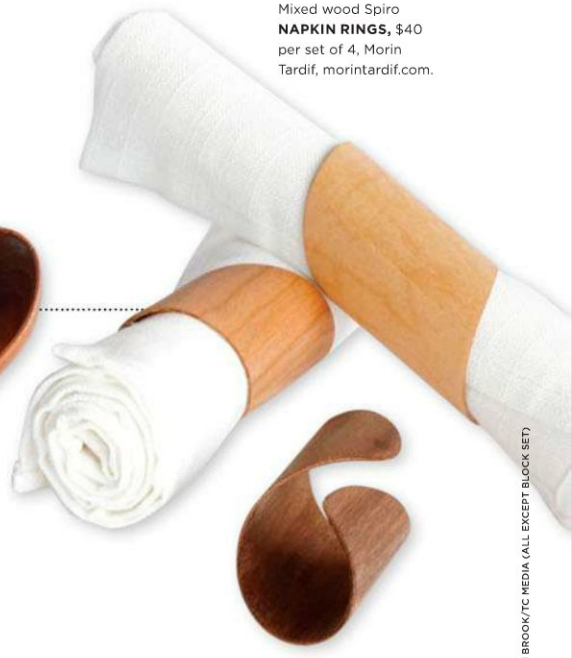
Bring a sense of warmth and an appreciation for craftsmanship into the kitchen with these wooden artisanal finds.

Maple End-Grain **BUFFET BOARD,** $165, Planet Creations, planet-creations.ca.

Maple, walnut and cherry **SALT BOWLS** with spoons and tray, $34, Le Temps des Cigales, letempsdescigales.com.

Black walnut **SALAD SERVERS,** $30, Morin Tardif, morintardif.com.

Schmidt Brothers 15-piece Downtown **BLOCK SET,** $200, West Elm, westelm.com.



Mixed wood Spiro **NAPKIN RINGS,** $40 per set of 4, Morin Tardif, morintardif.com.

Hand-carved teak **SPOONS,** from $125 each, Herriott Grace, shop.herriottgrace.com.

Add the natural warmth of wood to your kitchen with more fabulous accessories, **STYLEATHOME.COM/MADEOFWOOD.**

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (ALL EXCEPT BLOCK SET)

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OUR INSPIRATION

Swoon-worthy etiquette, true-to-period decor and Maggie Smith (of course!) are just a few of the things we love about *Downton Abbey*.

THE **trend** IS

downton abbey

The long-awaited second season of this runaway hit premieres on January 8. We can't wait for another glimpse into Edwardian life.

- Petite Marseille **CHANDELIER,** $299 US, Ballard Designs, ballarddesigns.com.
- The Broccato Papers Brocade BP 3206 **WALLPAPER,** $235 per roll, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.
- Mauviel Copper Oval **STEWPOT** with lid, $810, Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.ca.
- **FEATHER DUSTER,** $30 US, Caldrea, caldrea.com.
- White-washed Manor House **MIRROR,** $1,475 US, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com.
- Telegram **E-CARD,** from $0.20, Paperless Post, paperlesspost.com.
- Black butler's bell **WALL PLAQUE,** $40, Blackbird Vintage Finds, blackbirdvintage.com.
- Country Estate **SERVING PLATTER,** $175 US, Juliska, juliska.com.
- Hunter Regent Carlyle **BOOTS** in Chocolate, $250, Walking On A Cloud, walkingonacloud.com.

Check out season two of *Downton Abbey* on PBS. For air dates and times, check your local listings or go to pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/downtonabbey.

PRODUCER, AMANDA ETTY; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (BOOTS, WALL PLAQUE)

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$250 kitchen MAKEOVER

How far can you go with a couple of C-notes? Prepare to be amazed!

the details

This charming Quebec cottage kitchen got its comeuppance from talented decorator Heidi Smith, who knows a little something about getting the most for her money. With just a few essentials, she made over this room on almost a dime. Here's what it cost:

• wall paint (dry-brushed to use less)	$15
• brushes, rollers	$20
• drapery fabric	$35
• handles	$60
• dishes	$55
• breadbox	$30
• rag rug	$35
total	$250

TEXT, SUZANNE MOUTIS; PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH; STYLING, NICOLA MARC

Find out how to update your kitchen for under $100, **STYLEATHOME.COM/UPDATEYOURKITCHEN.**

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pots de CRÈME

A heavenly concoction of chocolate and cream to celebrate with the one you love.

PRODUCER
TARA BALLANTYNE

TEXT
SUZANNE MOUTIS

PHOTOGRAPHY
JOE KIM

MMM... DESSERT. It's one of the pleasures of Valentine's Day. Some might even say that our enjoyment of a satisfying dessert can eclipse the feelings evoked by the romantic nature of the rest of the day's pursuits!

This year, treat yourself and the ones you love to something a little out of the ordinary. Let go of the notion of dark, whipped chocolates in a heart-shaped box and instead try a little light fantastic with these delicious, decadent pots de crème confections made with cream, eggs and pure white chocolate.

RECIPE DEVELOPMENT & FOOD STYLING, TARA BALLANTYNE; PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA

ADVERTISEMENT

Everyday can be **Family Day**

"Spending quality time with your family is like putting money into people's physical, mental and emotional banks. Small activities today can have a big positive return for everyone in the future"

– Child Development Expert, Dr. Anthony Volk

Eating a balanced breakfast gets you and your family ready for the day. Here are some family time ideas for a winter day:

Host a Family Breakfast:

Kick off the day with a balanced, delicious family breakfast. Get everyone involved and make a simple recipe, like Banana Rollups. Have one family member spread NUTELLA® on a slice of whole grain pita, another can top it off with sliced bananas and the third can roll it up. Serve with a glass of milk. For full recipe details visit http://on.fb.me/breakfastroll-up.

Dr. Volk's Tip:
The quality time spent together can foster better communication skills.

Get Outside:

Often the colder months keep everyone cooped up indoors. Family time can be a great opportunity to break the cabin fever. Start the day with a balanced breakfast to help give your family the energy to play all day. Bundle up and embrace the winter weather with an activity the whole family can enjoy. From skating to building a snowman, outdoor activities allow families to build wonderful memories together.

Dr. Volk's Tip:
Try being active as a family to help foster a love of physical activity in your kids.

the breakfast table™

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For more tips and tricks on helping your family eat breakfast visit The Breakfast Table. Visit **Facebook.com/TheBreakfastTable** to learn more.

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INGREDIENTS
SERVES 8

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1 vanilla bean, split and seeds scraped out
- 225 g white chocolate, chopped
- 2 eggs + 1 egg yolk
- Pinch salt

READY IN 30 MINUTES

POTS DE CRÈME

1. COMBINE THE CREAM, milk, vanilla bean pod and seeds in a large saucepan. Bring the mixture to a boil, stirring constantly; reduce heat to low. Add the chopped chocolate a handful at a time, stirring until chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth. Remove from heat.

2. WHISK THE EGGS and yolk in a separate bowl until pale yellow, about 2 minutes. Add to the cream mixture, whisking constantly until well combined. Add the salt and remove the vanilla pod. Strain custard through a fine-mesh sieve into a one-quart measuring cup.

3. PREHEAT THE OVEN to 325°F.

4. PLACE EIGHT ramekins or custard cups in two metal baking pans or casserole dishes. Carefully divide custard among the cups. Slowly pour enough hot water into the base of the baking pan to cover ¾ of the way up the sides of the ramekins. Cover the pan tightly with aluminum foil, poking several holes into the foil with a skewer to let the steam escape.

5. BAKE THE CUSTARDS in the preheated oven for about 30 to 35 minutes, until centres are just set. Remove from the oven and place the ramekins on a work surface; let stand for about 15 minutes. Transfer to the refrigerator and chill for at least 2 hours or overnight.

TIP The pots de crème can be made the day before and chilled until ready to serve.

Designer : Scout Yerman Design
...and she fell into a deep sleep, in the most enchanting place she had ever seen.
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MARBLE
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CIOT.COM MONTREAL TORONTO VAUGHAN MISSISSAUGA QUEBEC BROSSARD DETROIT

PEOPLE ALWAYS *ask us*

The stars of the TV show *Steven and Chris* are the go-to source for design dilemmas. This issue, the duo addresses how to accessorize a kitchen countertop with everyday items.

Steven Sabados and **Chris Hyndman** are the hosts of the lifestyle show *Steven and Chris.* Watch them weekdays at 2 p.m. on CBC. Catch editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** monthly on the show as a guest expert. If you have a design dilemma, email Steven and Chris at askstevenandchris@cbc.ca.

6 COUNTER-WORTHY staples

1 | measuring cups

Of all the things that sit on a countertop, measuring cups are not often included. But these ones, with their floral motifs and pretty scalloped edges, are the perfect balance of form and function. They'll add a burst of colour to a corner while on standby for your next recipe.

Painted Amaryllis **MEASURING CUPS,** $38 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

2 | toaster

Have fun with your appliances! This toaster has a picture window, so you can keep an eye on all the action. It also boasts clean lines and endless charm.

Magimix by Robot-Coupe Vision **TOASTER,** $360, Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.ca.

3 | citrus squeezer

If it's good enough for the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, then why not your kitchen countertop? The Alessi Juicy Salif citrus squeezer by Philippe Starck is both beautiful and practical. It has been sitting on our countertop for years and is used daily – but, best of all, it's a great conversation starter.

Alessi Juicy Salif **CITRUS SQUEEZER,** $110, Bergo Designs, bergo.ca.

4 | canisters

This canister's bright citrus tone and cheeky vintage label are a fun, colourful twist on the standard glass version.

Carnaby Carbs **CANISTER,** $48 US, Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.

5 | pots

Beautiful cookware deserves to be on display. This hammered stainless steel stockpot with a decorative knob is timeless and will work with any kitchen style. We like the idea of keeping it out on open shelving or even on your stovetop when it's not in use.

Ruffoni Hammered Stainless Steel **STOCKPOT,** $725, Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.ca.

6 | coffee maker

The best cup of coffee we've ever tasted was made in a vacuum-style coffee maker. This fabulous Bodum one puts on a show throughout the brewing process but will sit quietly as a sleek glass sculpture during its downtime.

Santos Stovetop Vacuum **COFFEE MAKER,** $100, Bodum, bodum.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (CITRUS SQUEEZER, STOCKPOT)

Keep your counters stylish with these fab and functional accessories! **STYLEATHOME.COM/COUNTERWORTHY.**

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EVIL VANQUISHED.
NOT A BAD DAY AT THAT.
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There's only so much time until the lightsaber is passed. Because before you know it, your youngling will grow right before your eyes. So to all those who know the best memories are the ones you hold on to for a lifetime, don't wait. Make this your year for a magical Disney vacation. And let the memories begin at the place where dreams come true.
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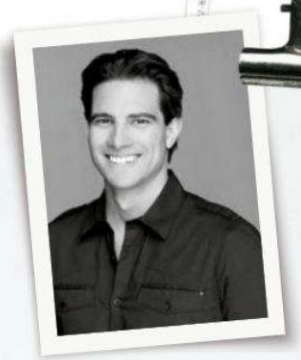


don't get cooked

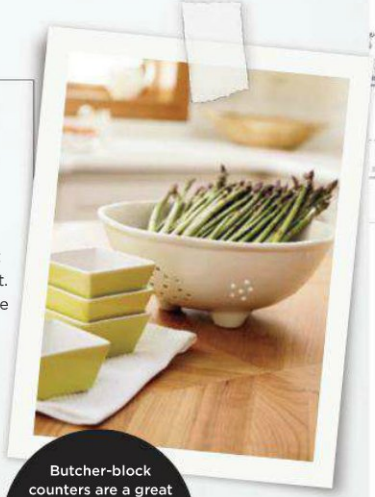
Be a money-wise renovator and know your limits. Don't be afraid to seek out affordable options.

You've been collecting magazines, visiting showrooms and you're finally ready to take the leap into a kitchen renovation. According to the Appraisal Institute of Canada, kitchen renos are guaranteed a return of 75 to 100 percent on your investment when you sell your house. But it all comes at a price. Here are my top five ways to spend your money wisely.

TEXT SCOTT MCGILLIVRAY

1 countertops

It seems everyone wants granite these days – I've even noticed that renters are asking for these high-end countertops, too. But while there's no doubt granite looks great, there are a ton of other options on the market that won't put such a massive hole in your budget. Butcher block, for example, is great for people who want a more rustic look, and it comes at a fraction of the price. Or, if you're after more industrial appeal, check out poured-concrete countertops – you'll pay a bit more for the labour, but the materials are a whole lot cheaper. If your heart is set on granite, be smart about buying it, and research some companies that may have deals on precut pieces or find a company that does big restaurant jobs and you might get lucky piggy-backing on someone else's good deal.



Butcher-block counters are a great option for people who want a more rustic look, and they come at a fraction of the price.

2 tiles

You can save a ton of cash with budget-friendly tiles used in a creative way. Consider a herring-bone design, for example, rather than a traditional brick pattern. Or use the expensive tiles you want sparingly to create a trim detail or a feature area behind the cooktop rather than being forced to tile the entire expanse of a backsplash. When I work with designers I always challenge them to use more affordable products in a high-end application. Believe me, ingenuity can definitely pay off.

3 appliances

Big-ticket items like appliances can set you back a lot of money. So consider: How many BTUs do you want in a gas cooktop? Do you need an LCD screen or an icemaker in your fridge? Is a double oven with a microwave feature really necessary? While we'd all like our kitchens to look like they just jumped off the pages of a magazine, study your space, how you entertain and how you cook before you go shopping. If you have a 10-by-10-foot kitchen, that six-burner, dual-fuel professional range just might not fit.

4 demolition

Invite some strong friends over and make a demo day of gutting your old kitchen. Be sure all the water, gas and electrical are turned off or disconnected, then go to town. It feels awesome, trust me. You can save a grand or even two by doing a lot of the demo on your own. Rent a bin to cart it all away and know that the money saved can go into an amazing faucet or a light fixture.

5 planning

It's really important that you don't over-invest in your kitchen reno. If your home is only worth $400,000, coughing up $75,000 to redo the kitchen might not be the best decision. I renovate 25 to 30 kitchens a year, and many of them are built with cabinetry from big-box stores. If you plan properly, you can make standard cabinetry look like a custom kitchen. You can also save money if you time your renovation around annual kitchen-sale events. When it comes to appliances, buying last year's models is another way to save. Look for deals through online coupon companies or at auctions. And it doesn't hurt to try to negotiate terms like delivery, tax included or even trade-ins. The best advice is to keep everything in balance and know when to break down your renovation wish list into more bite-sized pieces.

Scott McGillivray is the host of HGTV's *Income Property*. Catch back-to-back episodes Thursdays at 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on HGTV.

PHOTOGRAPHY, TIM LEYES, COURTESY OF HGTV CANADA (PORTRAIT); MONIC RICHARD, DONNA GRIFFITH

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PRODUCER ANDREA MCCRINDLE | **TEXT** SARA CATION
PHOTOGRAPHY MICHEL DUBE

HIGH $12,343

$259 each Ana Maria Ocko **DRAPERY PANELS** in Mineral, MacFab Fabrics, macfabfabrics.com.

$882 Arne Jacobsen for Louis Poulsen Lighting spun steel AJ **FLOOR LAMP,** Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

$1,895 Chestnut-veneer Morris Media **CONSOLE,** Elte, elte.com.

$60 **SHEEPSKIN,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$4,499 Charles and Ray Eames for Herman Miller leather-and-walnut **LOUNGER & OTTOMAN,** Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

$995 Argentina **COWHIDE** in Mustard, 5' x 7', Elte, elte.com.

$1,299 Vintage brass Sputnik **PENDANT LIGHT,** Morba, morba.ca.

$50 **CLOCK,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$88 Jensen wooden 3-speed Stereo **TURNTABLE,** Urban Outfitters, urbanoutfitters.com.

$200 Skull Candy Aviator Headband **HEADPHONES** in Brown/Gold, Future Shop, futureshop.ca.

$1,800 Fender Cabronita Telecaster **GUITAR** in Classic, Steve's Music Store, stevesmusic.com.

$19 each From left: *Torches* by Foster the People, *Abbey Road* by The Beatles and *Funeral* by Arcade Fire **RECORDS,** Urban Outfitters, urbanoutfitters.com.

LOW $4,882

$169 each Michael Miller **DRAPERY PANELS** in Char-D, MacFab Fabrics, macfabfabrics.com.

$110 IKEA Stockholm **FLOOR LAMP** in White, IKEA, ikea.ca.

$1,495 Jens Quistgaard for Lovig vintage-1973 teak **CONSOLE,** The Queen West Antique Centre, qwac.ca.

$40 Rens **SHEEPSKIN,** IKEA, ikea.ca.

$1,299 Leather-and-oak **LOUNGER & OTTOMAN,** Morba, morba.ca.

$649 Dyed Sauvage **COWHIDE** in Mustard Yellow, 6½' x 7½', Pampa Leather Corp., pampaleather.com.

$299 Nuevo Living chrome Sputnik **PENDANT LIGHT,** Morba, morba.ca.

$10 Vintage **CLOCK,** Value Village, valuevillage.ca.

$20 Vintage wooden **TURNTABLE,** Value Village, valuevillage.ca.

$70 Lethal DJ On-Ear **HEADPHONES** in Brown/Black, Future Shop, futureshop.ca.

$549 Fender Mexican Standard Telecaster FSR **GUITAR,** Steve's Music Store, stevesmusic.com.

$1 each From left: Vintage *Bruised Orange* by John Prine, *Side Streets* by Ray Materick and *41 Original Hits From the Soundtrack of American Graffiti* **RECORDS,** Value Village, valuevillage.ca.

FENDER SUPERSONIC 22 FSR AMPLIFIER, STEVE'S MUSIC STORE, STEVESMUSIC.COM; VINTAGE HORSE PIGGY BANK, MORBA, MORBA.CA

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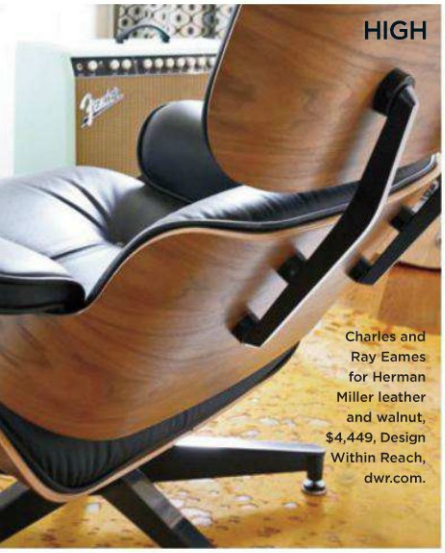
CANADA'S styleathome

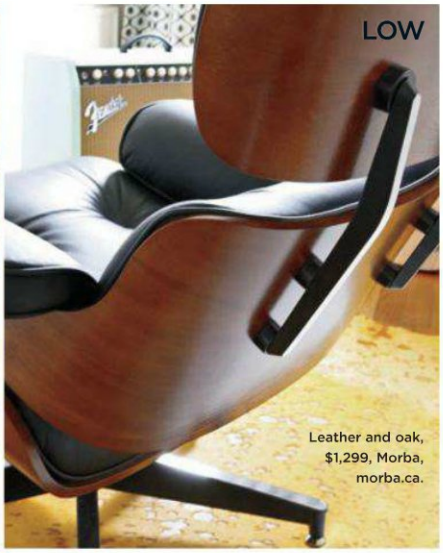
on the flip side

FROM ITS NOT-SO-HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AS A BESPOKE GIFT TO BILLY WILDER (DIRECTOR OF *SOME LIKE IT HOT* AND *SUNSET BOULEVARD*) FROM CHARLES EAMES AND HIS WIFE, RAY, THE HERMAN MILLER LOUNGER AND OTTOMAN IS NOW A MASS-PRODUCED INTERIOR ICON. YOU'LL HAVE SEEN IT ON THE SETS OF *MAD MEN*, *HOUSE* AND *FRASIER*, AND IT'S PART OF NEW YORK CITY'S MUSEUM OF MODERN ART'S PERMANENT COLLECTION. THE FIRST OF ITS KIND, THIS **LOUNGER AND OTTOMAN** ARE CELEBRATED FOR THEIR UNPARALLELED CRAFTSMANSHIP. AFTER ALL, "THE DETAILS ARE NOT THE DETAILS," CHARLES EAMES ONCE SAID. "THEY MAKE THE PRODUCT."



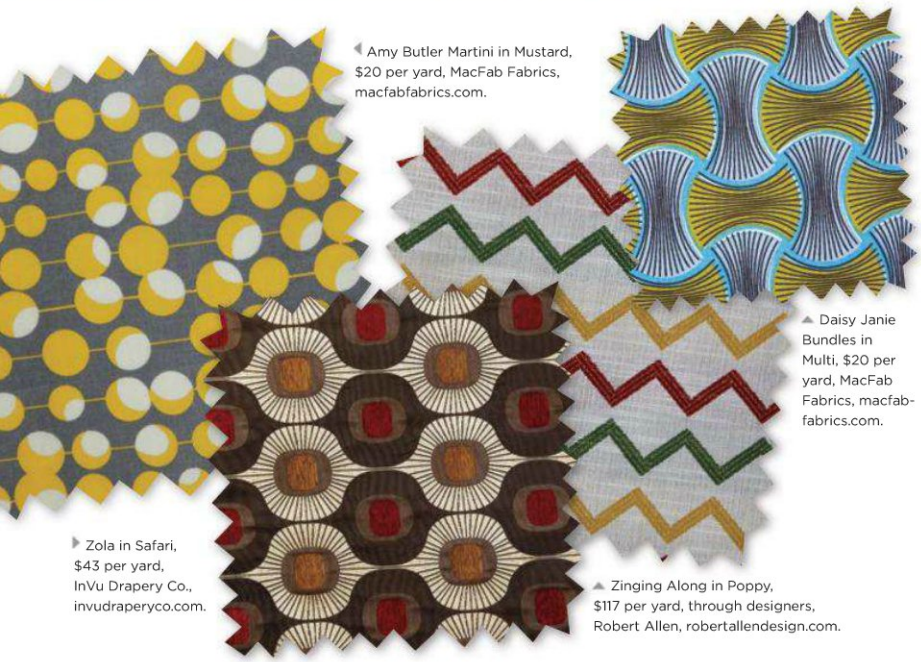
HIGH

Charles and Ray Eames for Herman Miller leather and walnut, $4,449, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.



LOW

Leather and oak, $1,299, Morba, morba.ca.



◀ Amy Butler Martini in Mustard, $20 per yard, MacFab Fabrics, macfabfabrics.com.

▲ Daisy Janie Bundles in Multi, $20 per yard, MacFab Fabrics, macfab-fabrics.com.

▶ Zola in Safari, $43 per yard, InVu Drapery Co., invudraperyco.com.

▲ Zinging Along in Poppy, $117 per yard, through designers, Robert Allen, robertallendesign.com.

FEELING GROOVY?

Bright colours and bold geometrics make these flashy **FABRICS** a total retro recall. Psychedelic and funky, they say '70s without all the snappy lingo and bring the lively era home. So they may be eye-catching, but, more than anything, they're *outta sight!*

high-low meter

high $1,425 US

Satellite **CHANDELIER** in Nickel with new crown-shaped arms, Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.

A relic of the Cold War Space Race between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S., the satellite Sputnik 1 shot into orbit in 1957, and the world as we know it has never been the same. You won't be able to see the real deal in outer space (it burned up in 1958), but keep your eyes to the sky (or, well, the ceiling) and you'll see some of the decor world's many interpretations.

Satellite **CHANDELIER** in Bronze, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

medium $1,325 US

Modern multi-armed **CHANDELIER** in Chrome, Union Lighting & Furnishings, unionlf.com.

low $400

Kirei Board **WALL TREATMENT**, 3' x 6', $179 (10 mm depth), Octopus Products, octopusproducts.com.

TIME MACHINE

No, we're not referring to the clock. In fact, it's the wall treatment that's taking us back – back to the '70s-era wood-panelled music and media rooms that graced almost every basement on the block. Though it has that old-wood patina we love, Kirei Board boasts the environmental responsibility we respect: It's made of rapidly renewable sorghum stalks (which would otherwise be thrown away or burned) and the result is VOC-free and minimal impact on our forests.

Citrus Splash SG370, Behr, behr.com.

Scotland Isle 410D-5, Behr, behr.com.

COLOURS THAT JIVE

WHILE THE WAR-TORN '60S WERE ALL ABOUT COLOURS THAT CLASH, THE '70S SAW A RETURN TO THE HARMONY OF EARTH TONES – HARVEST GOLD, AVOCADO GREEN AND BURNT ORANGE EXPLODED WITHIN EVERYONE'S FOUR WALLS – ON APPLIANCES, ACCESSORIES AND, OF COURSE, SHAG RUGS.

Caramelized Orange 250D-7, Behr, behr.com.

▲ high

Chestnut-veneer Morris, $1,895, Elte, elte.com.

HIP TO BE square(ish)

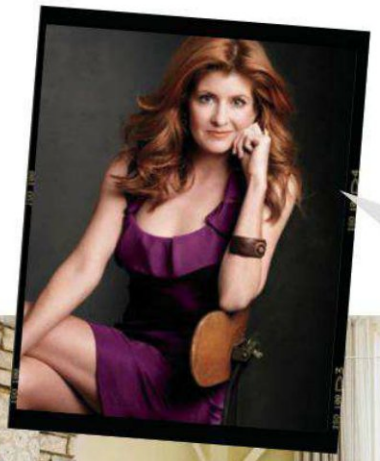
WOODEN **MEDIA CONSOLES** ARE A VERSATILE ADDITION TO ANY ROOM. WHETHER BRAND NEW (LIKE OUR HIGH VERSION) OR VINTAGE (LIKE OUR LOW VERSION), THIS KIND OF FURNITURE WILL KEEP ON TRUCKIN' THROUGH THE DECADES.

▲ low

Jens Quistgaard for Lovig vintage-1973 teak, The Queen West Antique Centre, qwac.ca.

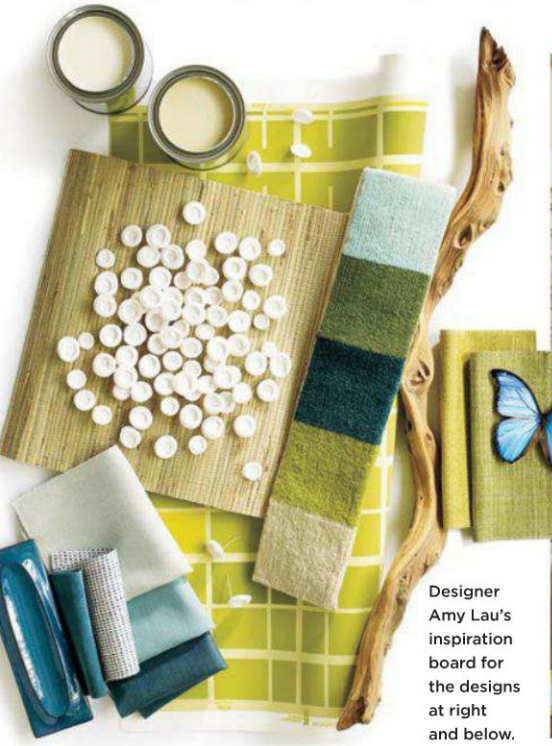
PRODUCER SARA CATION

for the *love* of Lau



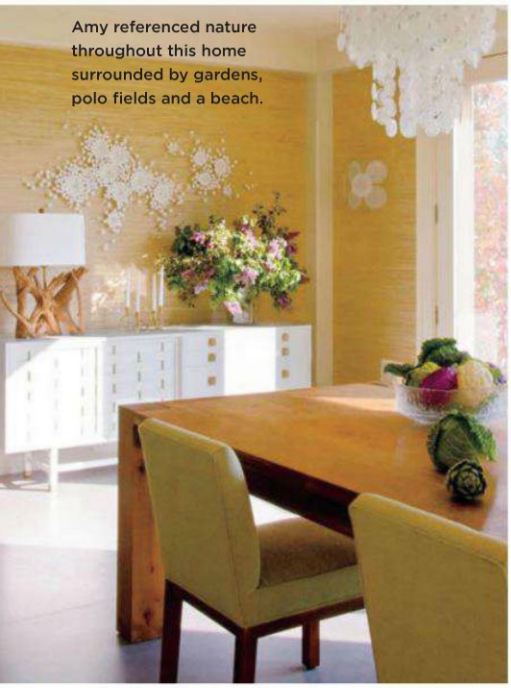
WHO Amy Lau, decorator, designer, new author and one of the participants in the speaker symposium at Toronto's 2012 Interior Design Show.

WHY WE LOVE AMY
She is lauded as a trailblazer and designer to watch. Thanks to her graduate degree in fine and decorative arts from Sotheby's, Amy has a curator's eye that can bring together bespoke art, vintage furniture, statement light fixtures and textured wall treatments into cohesive, comfortable and, at the bottom line, functional interiors.



Designer Amy Lau's inspiration board for the designs at right and below.

A bright Bridgehampton, New York, beach house embraces natural light.



Amy referenced nature throughout this home surrounded by gardens, polo fields and a beach.

STYLE AT HOME Tell us about your involvement in Toronto's Interior Design Show (IDS) this year.

AMY LAU I'll be lecturing on my inspiration and approach to design. My motto is "curate to decorate." You want your home to be edited but to turn on the flair when you need it. So I'll break down what that really means in terms of colour and pattern, scale and shape, concealing and flaunting, place and purpose.

Have you attended the IDS in Toronto previously?

This will be my first time, but there's quite a list of designers involved! I love Canadian design in general – I was blown away the first time I visited the Design Exchange (DX) museum in downtown Toronto!

Do you have a favourite Canadian influence?

Emily Carr is an artist who has really inspired me. She was such a vital force in that she took off and spent most of her time in the wilderness. As a result, she really captured nature in a unique way. Emily Carr was so passionate and, in a sense, committed her life to Canadian culture, heritage and landscape. She saw beauty in it and embraced it.

How would you describe your design sensibility?

Individualistic, expressive and timeless. My interiors are also very edited, in that everything has a purpose. They're memorable but livable.

What is the key to achieving that sort of look?

Ensuring that my designs reflect my clients – who they are, their interests, desires and lifestyles. I look for heirlooms because it's important that the pieces I choose are timeless, so I often work with artisans to create unique bespoke pieces.

How do you choose pieces that make a statement but don't overshadow a room?

It's about balance. I'm now working on a project – the biggest I've ever worked on – and the artists and artisans are doing incredible things: One is working on a 10-by-28-foot frieze, another is working on the biggest chandelier she'll ever create, and I have Vladimir Kagan commissioned to do a pair of sofas. Making them all work together is about ensuring that your pieces have a dialogue in balance and scale rather than outshining one another. It's a real fine line, and it's constant editing, editing, editing. Sometimes I think of it as being more of a design director.

What are your guidelines for commissioning work from artisans?

Whether you're commissioning an artist at a gallery or one from Etsy, think of timelessness instead of trends. Objects outlast us, so really consider what it is you're trying to create. It's important to work in collaboration with artisans – they need to have their own voice to make sure that their work is really a reflection of what

PHOTOGRAPHY, MARK SELIGER (PORTRAIT), ANTONIS ACHILLEOS (INSPIRATION BOARD), KRIS TAMBURELLO (INTERIORS)

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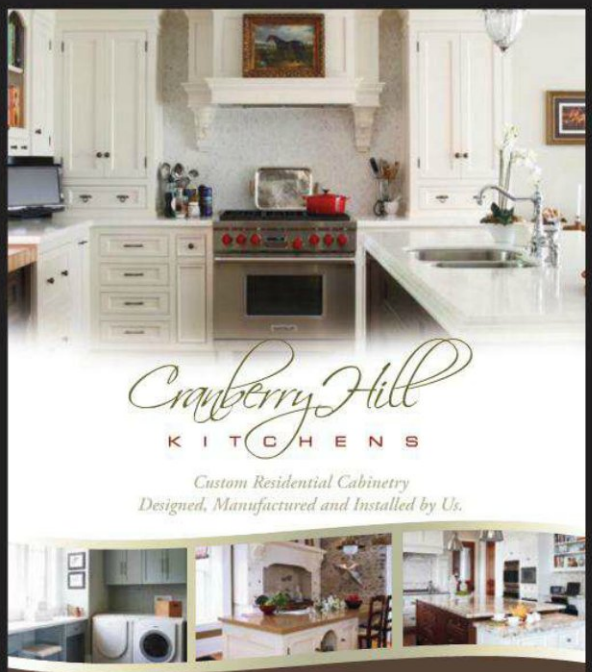

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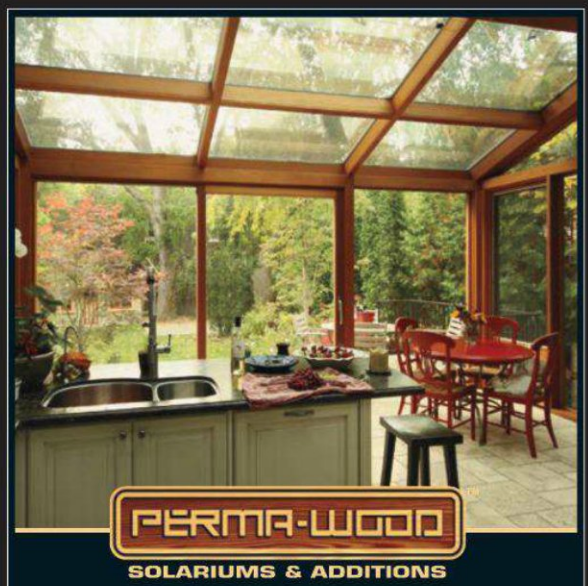

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Amy had curtains with a bold wave-like pattern custom designed to give this apartment "movement."

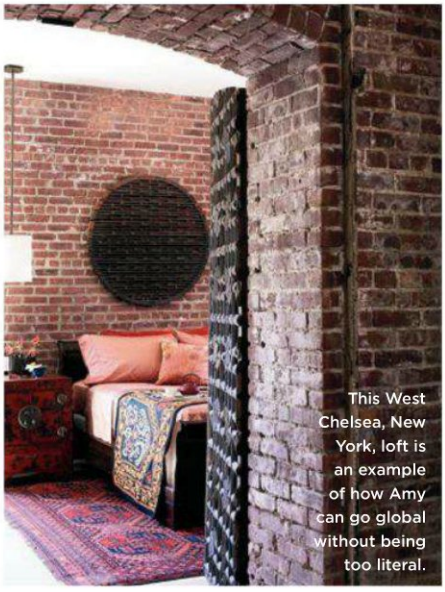
they do best. Giving them a commission is also giving them the confidence that you believe in them. You want them to think out of the box but then really try and make something that shows they understand who you are.

What's your advice for buying designer antiques?

Be sure you're using a reputable dealer. If you're buying on 1stdibs, the dealer has already gone through a vetting process so, in a way, you get guaranteed authenticity. Beyond that, look for books that show an artist's oeuvre. If you're looking for something by George Nelson, for example, go back to the Herman Miller catalogue to compare and contrast with what you find. Also consider a piece's provenance – how many times was it reupholstered, and was it done correctly? Did upholsterers follow the original lines for welting and button details? Does it still look like the original?

Tell us about your new book, *Expressive Modern.*

It was fantastic because I collaborated with Linda O'Keeffe, the former creative director of *Metropolitan Home* magazine. She has a divine eye and she really gets it. It was her idea – which I love, love, love – to have my inspiration boards at the beginning of each chapter. It was nice just to sit down and see how my work has unfolded over the years.



This West Chelsea, New York, loft is an example of how Amy can go global without being too literal.

Warm wood provides a backdrop for a chandelier that references falling leaves.

piece of architecture

"One of my favourites is Antonio Gaudí's Casa Batlló – it's to die for! My life kind of transformed when I saw that one."

Amy's *A-list*

kitchen favourite

"I recently bought some Carrara marble kitchen gear in Italy, so I'm interested in unique salts and exotic peppers that I can hand-grind."

Amy Lau for Maya Romanoff Anniversary Collection Crystal **WALLPAPER,** through designers, Télio, telio.com.

first big design purchase

"My first upholstered chair – a Heywood-Wakefield piece. I bought it at a flea market. I don't think I even reupholstered it."

next home project

"I just moved, and in one room, I'm dying to do the ceiling and the backs of my bookshelves in a wallpaper I designed. It's soft, so the wallpaper will just lend the ceiling more depth, giving it the look of a specialized finish."

must-have accessory

"In the kitchen, a good soap pump! I can't stand to see houses that don't use a soap pump or a paper towel holder! I really like Simplehuman's accessories – the purity in the way in which they do things is beautiful."

PHOTOGRAPHY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT), ROGER DAVIES, ISTOCKPHOTO (CASA BATLLÓ, MORTAR AND PESTLE), JOSHUA MCHUGH, HULYA KOLABAS

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Want to achieve Amy's signature style?
Here are 15 Lauisms from her new book, *Expressive Modern: The Interiors of Amy Lau* (The Monacelli Press), to live and decorate by!

AMY'S BIG 15

1. INTERESTING SHAPES AND FORMS An aficionado of fine and decorative arts, Amy doesn't limit artwork to merely canvas on the walls. Art can be found in sculptural elements like the base of this reading lamp.

2. BOLD COLOUR Amy's interiors never shy away from colour, but never feel too loud. "A room's colours should work with adjacent rooms, hallways and neighbouring spaces," says Amy.

3. UNIQUE ART "Art provides the hierarchy of colour and pattern in a room: A motif or graphic element from a painting can be blown out of scale to inspire pillows, rug design, even a mural."

4. UNCLUTTERED SURFACES "A love of order often naturally leads to design with straight lines and a simple palette."

5. WARM WOOD "Nature is a friend and teacher who continues to inform my interior design work every day."

6. MID-CENTURY MODERN FURNITURE Amy is drawn to the style's clean, low lines, as shown in this room's T. H. Robsjohn-Gibbings chair and Paul McCobb dresser.

7. RESTORED AND REFURBISHED CLASSIC PIECES Amy added "abstract upholstery" to update this classic Mid-Century Modern find.

8. CURVES AND EDGES "Soft-angled, curvy furniture offsets rectilinear elements to give a room extra dimension."

9. PATTERN PLAY "Colour and pattern instantly alter our perception of a room's size, shape and personality."

10. EDITED COLLECTIONS "Displaying any collection, large or small, calls for editing and restraint."

11. ART GLASS Amy is drawn to the appeal of art glass – it introduces colour that can be amplified by natural light.

12. TEXTURED WALL TREATMENTS Amy often includes bespoke artwork like this ceramic pinched-petal wall sculpture.

13. NATURAL LIGHT "Calculating the amount of natural light that seeps into a room is important because light is the vehicle for emotion."

14. STATEMENT LIGHTING Breathtaking light fixtures often take centre stage in Amy's rooms.

15. COLOUR BLOCKING The clean white slate of the floor, walls, ceiling, dining table and three of the chairs manipulates our spatial perception (read: bigger!), while blocks of red (in the flowers), black (on the chairs) and colourful geometric art guide our eyes through the room.

PHOTOGRAPHY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT), ROGER DAVIES, MELANIE ACEVEDO, KRIS TAMBURELLO

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"I never knew that a dry scalp could cause irritation and itch. Using ***Head & Shoulders Shampoo and Conditioner*** helps keep my scalp moisturized and soothed, even in winter – plus they give me soft, beautiful hair!" – Sarah, 29

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For more info, visit **headandshoulders.ca** or our facebook page at **facebook.com/HeadAndShouldersForWomen**

WALL FLOWERS

A decorative wall treatment that dates back to antiquity, murals can transform and personalize a space, lending it an air of history, exoticism and escape. Contributing design editor Christine Hanlon shows how to do art in a big way.

PRODUCER CHRISTINE HANLON

HAND-PAINTED CHINESE SCENE SY-81 WALLPAPER, GRACIE, GRACIESTUDIO.COM; PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE), FROM *THAD HAYES: THE TAILORED INTERIOR* (RIZZOLI, 2009)

No longer simply fussy finishes with dated themes, murals are being used by interior designers in new ways with fresh interpretations of classical motifs. Here, designer Thad Hayes used a custom hand-painted chinoiserie wallpaper inspired by the one shown opposite in a traditional dining room, adding an element of exoticism to the space. Because of its large-scale scenic motif, this graceful wallpaper looks like a commissioned mural.

Custom hand-painted Chinese Scene **WALLPAPER,** Gracie, graciestudio.com.

PAPIERS PEINTS PANORAMIQUES

technique

MURAL Hand-painted directly onto a large architectural surface.

WALLPAPER Either printed or hand-painted; can be used on a small or large scale.

PAPIERS PEINTS PANORAMIQUES Panoramic wallpaper that's usually hand-painted.

DIGITAL Many options available, including photography, reproductions, geometrics, etc.

OVERSIZED ARTWORK Large-scale artwork in any medium. An easy way to get the mural look without the commitment.

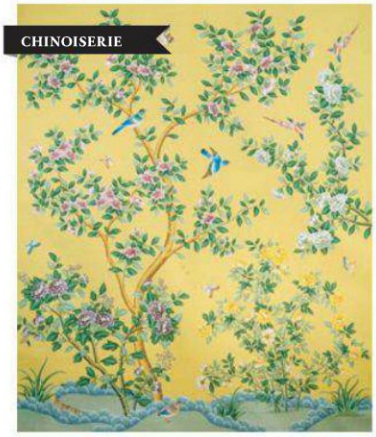
subject matter

CHINOISERIE Includes Asian motifs that are both imagined and real, such as pagodas, birds, monkeys, botanicals and figures in exotic costume.

SCENIC/PASTORAL LANDSCAPES Traditional, idealized imagery of the countryside or any natural landscape.

FLORA & FAUNA Whimsical portraits of flowers and wildlife.

MODERN INTERPRETATIONS Includes geometrics, abstract botanicals, figural representations and iconic motifs.


CHINOISERIE

DIGITAL

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Papiers Peints Panoramiques Collection hand-painted Le Bresil **WALLPAPER** in Amarelo, de Gournay, degournay.com; hand-painted Chinese Scene SY-209 **WALLPAPER,** Gracie, graciestudio.com; Royal Horticultural Society Collection Vienna Winter Garden **PRINT,** Surface View, surfaceview.com; hand-painted Chinese Scene SY-120 **WALLPAPER,** Gracie, graciestudio.com.

"MURALS HAVE A LYRICAL QUALITY TO THEM, DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM HISTORY AND EXOTIC PLACES AND BRINGING THEIR ESSENCE INTO YOUR HOME."

CHRISTINE HANLON, CONTRIBUTING DESIGN EDITOR

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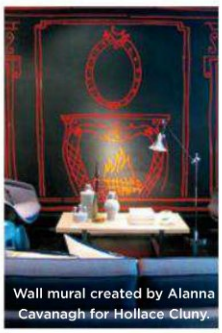
Wall mural created by Alanna Cavanagh for Hollace Cluny.

BESPOKE MURAL ART There are many contemporary mural artists available for hire to create custom designs for your space (see Contemporary Muralists).

HAND-PAINTED WALLPAPER New York-based Gracie, established in 1898, produces beautiful hand-painted wallpapers and is best known for its chinoiserie designs. De Gournay creates high-end hand-painted papers, specializing in 18th-century chinoiserie and 19th-century French designs.

DIGITAL REPRODUCTIONS U.K.-based Surface View (surfaceview.com) creates unique bespoke murals from its extensive image database, including the Victoria and Albert Museum archives, the Royal Horticultural Society archives and the Natural History Museum archives, among many others.

CONTEMPORARY MURALISTS

Open Feather **WALLPAPER,** Hollace Cluny, hollacecluny.ca.

1. BARBARA ROCHA (paintalifestyle.ca)

2. SORELLE FINE ARTS (sorellefinearts.com)

3. LYNNE RUTTER (lynnerutter.com)

4. BILLET COLLINS (billetcollins.com)

5. ALANNA CAVANAGH (alannacavanagh.com)

6. TRACY KENDALL (tracykendall.com)

7. DEBORAH BOWNESS (deborahbowness.com)

GLOSSARY

bespoke • *adj.* **1** (of goods) Made to order. **2** Custom-made items, personalized to buyer's specifications. **chinoiserie** • *n.* **1** The imitation of Chinese motifs and techniques in painting and decorative arts. **2** An object or objects in this style. **fresco** • *n. (pl. –oes)* **1** A painting done in watercolour on a wall or ceiling while the plaster is still wet. **2** This method of painting. **grisaille** • *n.* Decoration executed in monochrome or near monochrome, usu. grey, designed to produce a three-dimensional effect. **mural** • *n.* A painting executed directly on a wall, ceiling or other large, architectural surface. **pastoral** • *adj.* **1** Of or pertaining to the countryside; rural. **2** (of artwork) Portraying country life, usu. in a romantic or an idealized form. ***trompe l'oeil*** • *n.* An optical illusion, esp. a still-life painting designed to deceive the spectator by giving an illusion of reality.

DESIGN LESSONS

MURALS

1. Murals, or any form of large-scale interior wall treatments, are a fantastic conversation starter, offering extraordinary impact without intruding into your space.

2. They conjure unexpected imaginative imagery and can transport your room to another time and place.

3. Murals serve to tie elements in a space together through repetition and colour harmony, as well as reinforcing a room's architectural elements, such as moulding or wainscotting.

4. They can anchor a room's decor and provide a focal point.

5. The imagery, which often seems to recede, can make a small space feel larger by adding dimension and movement.

6. Do what feels right for your space: There are many ways to get the mural look without a large investment or commitment.

THE MATERIALS

SILVER & GOLD LEAF

•

VENETIAN PLASTER

•

PAINT

•

OLD-WORLD WASHES

•

TEXTILES

•

GLAZE

Hand-painted Chinese Scene SY-234 **WALLPAPER,** Gracie, graciestudio.com.

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3 designer KITCHENS with the RIGHT BLEND OF INGREDIENTS

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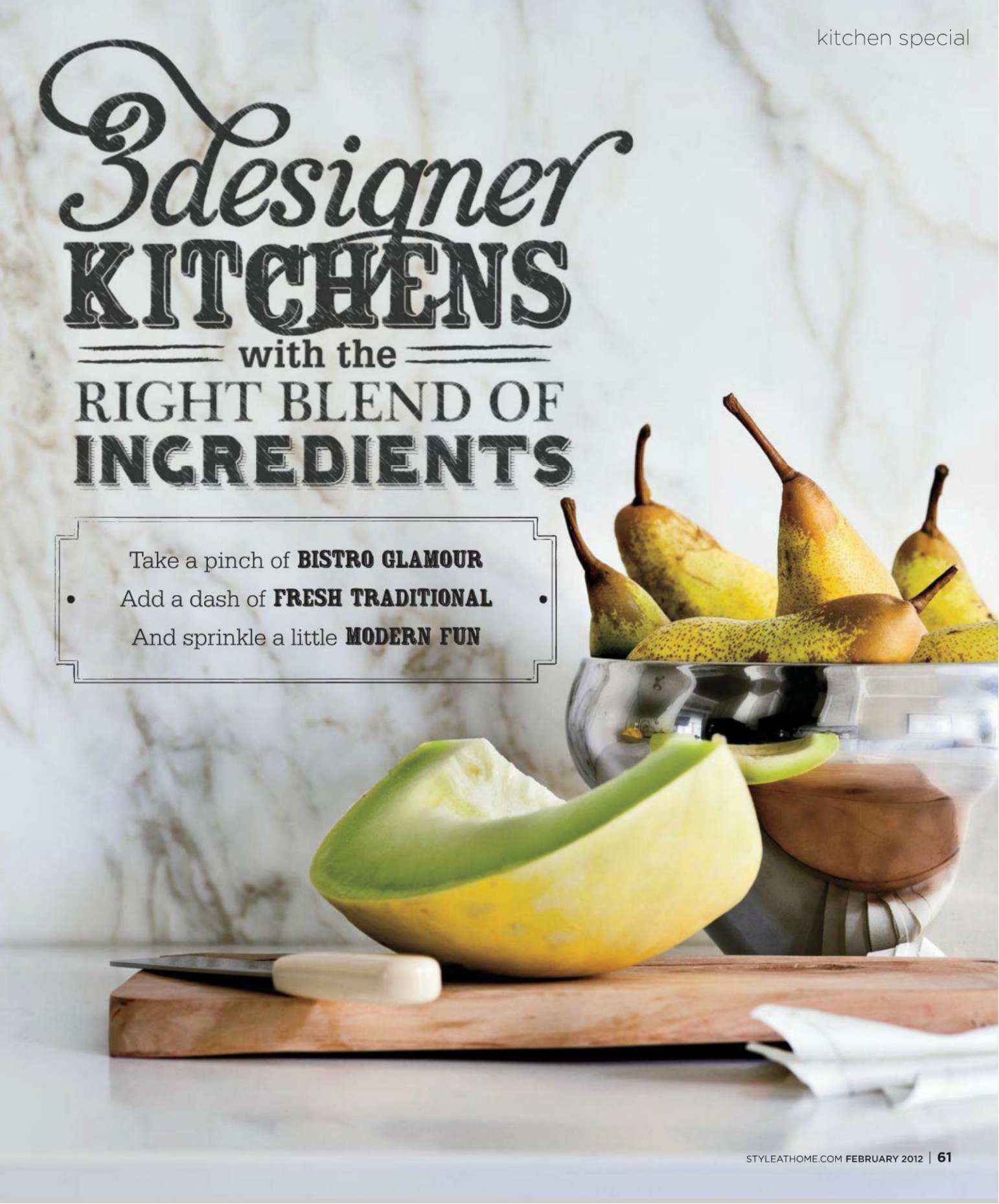
And sprinkle a little **MODERN FUN**



PRETTY FUNCTIONAL

Toronto designer Elle Jungkind cooks up a visual feast in her own kitchen that speaks to both traditional and modern sensibilities.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH | **STYLING** JESSICA WAKS

Elegant and light filled, the charming Toronto kitchen of Elle Jungkind looks like something that could be found in a New York apartment or a Parisian *pied-à-terre*, so it's hard to believe it developed out of something a little more mundane. "It all started with the introduction of Toronto's recycling services," says Elle, who owns the interior design firm Elle Maison Design. Her kitchen couldn't accommodate a recycling container, a green compost bucket and a garbage can, so she set out to fix the problem. "I had seen those clever trash compartments that are part of new kitchens and they could easily go underneath my sink."

But, Elle figured, why stop there? After all, the kitchen in her Georgian-style townhouse (published in *Style at Home*'s May 2004 issue) had become dated, she felt, and there were things she could do to enhance both its functionality and aesthetic. For example, Elle, an avid cook and entertainer, could use more counter space. Also, she thought, why not replace the wall oven and microwave with a gorgeous high-end range? And with the wall oven gone, she could install a pantry with slide-out drawers. "That's what really got me going," says Elle.

Inspired by New York City bistros (she loves the industrial appliances, the expanses of marble, the chunky white dishes and the organic hits that define this style), Elle included a mix of contemporary and traditional elements in a light, monochromatic palette to create a classic look.

"Because it's a small space, I didn't want to get distracted by a lot of stops and starts of anything," she says. So, along with her all-white custom cabinetry, she incorporated slabs of marble for the backsplash (as opposed to "choppy-looking" tile), an extra-thick white quartz countertop and a large single undermount sink. "One of the things I found was that when I entertained I would have these big platters and, with my double sink, I could never wash them properly," she says. "I wanted a place where I could just put something like that down and let it soak for a few hours."

Indeed, everything about this kitchen, including its under-sink garbage system, is practical. The cabinetry is organized with the slide-out drawers she wanted; the countertop, which Elle extended on one side, allows her more prep space and an area to set out food for guests; and the substantial gooseneck faucet also makes it easier to fill and clean up pots. "I've crowded so many important features into my kitchen that it doesn't act like a small space," says Elle. "Not only is it pretty, but it's also really functional."

1. The kitchen – a galley that flows into the more formal dining room – is chock full of practical features that make it easy for homeowner and designer Elle Jungkind to host parties and entertain guests.

DESIGN, Elle Maison Design, ellemaison.ca; **CABINETRY, HARDWARE,** Kitchen Designers Plus; Viking **APPLIANCES,** Caplan's Appliances; **SINK, FAUCET,** Taps Bath Centre.

2. The dome light fixture lends a decidedly modern look to the kitchen and, with its round shape, balances the space's square lines.

Stony Ground 211 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Royal Lighting; **TABLE, CHAIRS,** Elle Maison Design; **STOOLS,** ISA International; Ming Fret **STOOL FABRIC** in Taupe, Robert Allen; Fornasetti **PLATES,** AT Design Group.

3. The kitchen's mix of white recess-panelled cabinetry, marble backsplash, chunky quartz countertops and show-stopping commercial-style stove offers a look that's classic, bright and warm.

Calacatta Oro marble **BACKSPLASH,** quartz **COUNTERTOPS** in Blizzard, Marble and Granite Stonecraft.

4. Elle's British Blue cat, Bettina, enjoys the kitchen's eating area, which is defined by modern elements that enhance the room's contemporary look. The upholstered stools add a graphic punch and create an attractive sightline from the dining room.

5. All-wood custom pullout storage allows Elle easier access to her dishes and pantry items. "Because I have so many dishes and things, I wanted drawers so I could see it all at a glance," she says.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

FAMILY TIES

Calgary designer Aly Velji considers the needs and tastes of a family of four to satisfy their every kitchen craving.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY VAN BERKEL-HAINES

1

With its glass-tiled backsplash, all-white cabinetry and luxurious quartz and marble countertops, this decidedly chic kitchen (inspired by one the homeowner, funnily enough, saw in the pages of *Style at Home*) doesn't exactly shout "suitable for kids." But that's exactly what it is.

Creating a bright, family-friendly space had been a top priority since Sarah and Aaron Smith, both engineers, moved into this Calgary home about three years ago. (They now share the house with their two sons, Bennett, 3, and Connor, 1.) Originally, the room, with its overbearing cabinetry, felt very dark and confined. Flow between the kitchen and dining area was awkward, and features like an ineffectual pass-through on one side and low-hanging cabinetry on another didn't help. "If people were standing on the other side of the counter, they had to duck down below the cabinets to see you," says Sarah.

When it came time to gut the dated kitchen, the couple called on designer Aly Velji, whom they met when they needed help picking paint colours for their former home. Five years and several room renos later, they knew they could trust Aly to help realize their vision. "We wanted to make the kitchen kid-friendly but also make it look current and really fresh," says Aly, "so that's the approach we took."

First things first: the walls enclosing the kitchen came down and the dining area's vaulted ceiling was evened out, streamlining the resulting 16-by-21-foot space. With functionality an enormous consideration, the new traditional cabinetry – the homeowners didn't want to go too modern in their 1960s house – was packed with handy custom storage.

The mix of modern and traditional elements creates a timeless aesthetic, and some eclectic decorative touches, such as a row of glass globe pendant lights and Roman shades with a modern trellis pattern, work to elevate the kitchen's inviting charm. "I'm always looking to do something a little bit different and unexpected," says Aly.

But it seems the most unexpected thing about this undeniably sophisticated space is just how kid-friendly it really is: The glass backsplash is easy to clean, the stools are covered in stain-resistant microsuede and the ample marble-topped island offers the perfect spot for casual meals. "In the end, we were able to create a kitchen that doesn't look 'kiddish' but in fact can be used by a family," says Sarah.

1. Homeowners Sarah and Aaron Smith's former kitchen felt dark, confined and dated. To create a bright, fresh space with better flow, walls were taken down and the space was decorated in a light palette.

DESIGN, Alykhan Velji Designs, alyveljidesigns.com; **HARDWARE,** Banbury Lane Design Centre; Caesarstone quartz **COUNTERTOPS** in Concrete, Carrara marble **ISLAND COUNTERTOP,** glass **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Icon Stone & Tile; Blanco **SINK,** Hansgrohe **FAUCET & SOAP DISPENSER,** The Royal Flush; filtered water **FAUCET,** Culligan; Cyan Design Janus **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Carrington Lighting; **STOOLS,** 4living; **FLOWERS** (throughout), Lil' Pink Daisy Florals.

2. The brown-stained oak floors and dark grey quartz countertop add warmth and depth. "Plus, quartz is a nice feature because it's very durable," says Sarah. Designed with function in mind, the cabinetry houses elements like a pullout wine rack, spice rack and garbage drawer.

Red oak **HARDWOOD FLOORING** with coffee stain, Homestyle Hardwood Floors; Threads Zenith Reverse **ROMAN SHADE FABRIC** in Dove, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom.

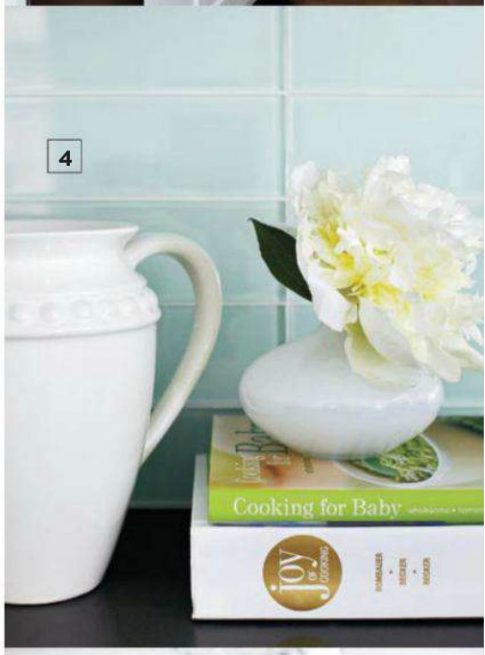
3. A wall of cabinetry surrounding the fridge and double ovens includes a pantry with handy pullout shelves.

Miele **APPLIANCES,** Sharp **MICROWAVE,** Jerome's Appliance Gallery.

4. The dark grey quartz countertop helps to ground the all-white cabinetry and allows for accessories to really stand out.

5. The stacked pale-blue glass subway tiles and stainless steel appliances, which were chosen for their function and sleek look, says Sarah, juxtaposes the kitchen's traditional cabinetry.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



1

PRECISELY RIGHT

Toronto designer Jessica Kelly serves this homeowner a dose of modern garnished with lighthearted colour and texture.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JOANNA FERRARO

1. Defining the eating area, the banquette contains three drawers for extra storage. It also provided designer Jessica Kelly with an opportunity to include a variety of cushions, which adds extra colour and also softens the sleek, industrial look of the space.

DESIGN, Jessica Kelly Design, jessicakelly-design.com; **BANQUETTE CABINETRY,** IKEA; **BANQUETTE FABRICATION,** JD McNicoll Interiors; **SEAT CUSHION,** Quality Upholstery.

2. The airy chandelier by Patrick Townsend, which homeowner Christopher Craib dubbed "splash-tastic," anchors the eating area and complements the contemporary kitchen.

3. Covering an entire wall in tumbled marble gives this kitchen its "wow" factor. Also, passing on upper cabinetry left room to install the substantial chef-style faucet.

CABINETRY, IKEA; **HARDWARE,** Métal Style Bouvet; tumbled marble **BACKSPLASH,** porcelain **FLOOR TILES,** Olympia Tile & Stone; Caesarstone **COUNTERTOPS** in Stone Grey, Allset Interiors; **SINK, FAUCET,** Blanco; Panasonic **MICROWAVE,** The Bay.

4. With a monochromatic backdrop, you can easily change a kitchen's look with colourful accents without having to spend a bundle, says Christopher.

5. The sleek appliances and all-white high-gloss cabinetry were offset with a tumbled marble backsplash, which provides interest and texture. "We also went for glass-front upper cabinets to mix it up a bit and add dimension," says Jessica. "I like how their metal frames tie in with the stainless steel appliances."

Bosch **STOVE & RANGE HOOD,** Fisher & Paykel **REFRIGERATOR,** The Bay.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Preparing for a kitchen renovation is definitely a time to dream – to think of how that brand new stainless steel range, show-stopping backsplash or even extra counter space will make life just that much better. But for a Bay Street financier, it's also a time for prudence. When Christopher Craib, the chief financial officer of a securities firm in Toronto, decided it was time to overhaul the builder-boring kitchen in his 10-year-old west-end condo, his plan involved more than just updating the look.

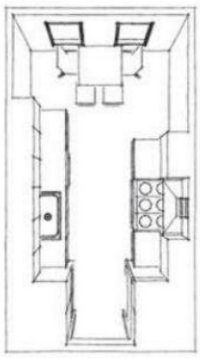
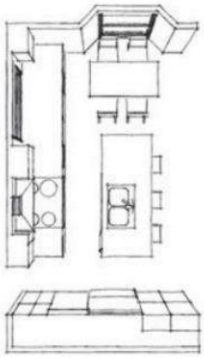
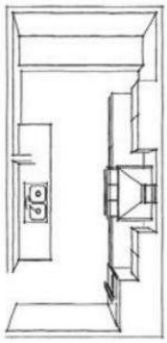
"I had to consider I was renovating in a condo and wanted to spend my money wisely," says Christopher, who has been living in his 1,600-square-foot condo for eight years. "You have to be careful not to overspend for your building if you want to get your money back in the future, so I was mindful of those constraints." For Christopher, cautious spending meant keeping the reno simple ("I didn't want to have to move plumbing or make major structural changes"), mixing high and low elements and creating a modern look that lasts. So he enlisted Toronto designer Jessica Kelly to make sure he got it all right the first time.

To create a contemporary, slightly industrial aesthetic, Jessica incorporated all-white high-gloss cabinetry, grey quartz countertops and oversized porcelain floor tiles. Giving the kitchen its standout appeal, tumbled marble serves as the backsplash on one side of the kitchen and creates a captivating feature wall, which was kept free of any upper cabinetry, unlike the other. It was a big decision, but Christopher bucked the trend of open-concept condo living and chose not to take down the nine-foot-long wall separating the kitchen and dining room. Instead, Jessica pared back two half walls that slightly separated the kitchen from the eat-in nook and created a more open, streamlined 18-by-eight-foot galley space.

While the relationship between designer and homeowner was extremely simpatico during the process, there was one bit of controversy. "I was against doing a banquette in the eating area," says Christopher. "I didn't want to invest money in a built-in because, if I sell the place, I can't take it with me." He's glad he changed his mind, because with the kitchen now being his favourite room in the condo, the banquette offers him a spot to sit and enjoy the space. "I have coffee there, I read there," he says. "I've even managed to have a nap."

So, as Christopher proves, it's important to let self-indulgence sometimes win over prudence. "Ultimately, I built this kitchen for myself."

With a designer's touch, these three kitchens went from unappetizing to delectable thanks to refreshed floor plans and à la carte looks.

THE BEFORE	THE PLAN	THE LOOK
	 The layout of this 136-square-foot kitchen remained the same, but replacing the wall oven and microwave with a high-end range allowed for a useful pantry.	BISTRO GLAMOUR
	 To create better flow in this 336-square-foot space, walls were taken down – one had an ineffectual pass-through and another was essentially a counter with awkward overhang cabinets.	FRESH TRADITIONAL
	 Forgoing an open-concept cooking/dining area, two half walls were removed to create a more open, galley-style kitchen, resulting in a 144-square-foot space.	MODERN FUN

PHOTOGRAPHY, VIRGINIA MACDONALD (JUNGKIND BEFORE); ILLUSTRATIONS, ASHLEY BRAUN

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TEXT SARA CATION | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH

dear Valentine,

I love you. You're gorgeous (inside and out, top to bottom), strong and sturdy (like a stack of bricks, some might say), always open (except when I forget my key) and you stand tall (even though I spend way too much time trying to change you). So this year, Valentine's Day is all about you. Let me massage your walls with the colour of adoration, cook up a romantic feast of style and treat you to a design that shows you how much I care. I'm ready to sing it from the rooftops: I love you, home sweet home!

1

1 IT TAKES TWO

Joining hands on this show house project, designer Jennifer Brouwer of Jennifer Brouwer Design (right) designed this love shack, while Barbara Rocha of Paint a Lifestyle did the wall treatments.

DESIGN, Jennifer Brouwer Design, jenniferbrouwerdesign.com; zebra-striped **WALL TREATMENT,** Paint a Lifestyle.

2

4

4 SOME SAY IT IS A FLOWER

With a bit of red paper, a special hole punch and a touch of adhesive, this IKEA Maskros pendant light was transformed from a mere bunch of flowers into a bouquet of hearts.

3

2 OH, MY DARLING, I'VE HUNGERED FOR...

Has it been a long, lonely time since you served up Valentine's Day dinner in a room that *really* says "romance"? The high-gloss dining table and sideboard are red siren calls to the occasion, like a passionate kiss on the lips, while the light pink Louis-style chairs with damask-patterned peekaboo backs are the soft peck on the cheek that accompanies them. All that's missing is oysters, chocolate fondue and a bottle of wine!

SIDEBOARD, DINING TABLE, CHAIRS, Geovin Furniture; Ruby Red 2001-10 **SIDEBOARD & DINING TABLE PAINT,** Tickled Pink 2002-50 **CHAIR PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **DRAPERY FABRIC,** Joanne Fabrics.

3 ETERNAL FLAME

Are we only dreaming or is this fire radiating the fuchsia that surrounds it? Luxe velvet ottomans, tricoloured drapery and a few red accessories frame the bold, black fireplace, which, at its heart, burns as brightly as the passion of young love. Can you feel their hearts beating?

OTTOMANS, HomeSense; velvet **OTTOMAN FABRIC,** Joanne Fabrics.

5 TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE...

Every now and then, we get a little bit tired of the same old same. Jennifer's motivation for the overhaul of her eight- and nine-year-old daughters' bedroom was to see the surprise and delight on their faces at the result. "My favourite part of the room," says Jennifer, "is the joy it created – it's a space my girls will never forget." Call it love at first sight!

Rapture CC-66 and Universal Black 2118-10 chalk-finish WALL PAINT, Blushing Bride 2086-50 **FAUX HEADBOARD PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; decorative headboard **WALL TREATMENT,** Paint a Lifestyle; Dvala **DUVET COVER,** IKEA.

For more Valentine's Day inspired tips and tricks, **STYLEATHOME.COM/VALENTINESDAY.**

6

8

8 CRAZY LITTLE THING CALLED...

Love makes you go that extra mile, so when it came to decorating her daughters' bedroom, Jennifer added the mother's touch of her own art to a set of girlie white frames.

Kvill **FRAME,** IKEA.

7

6 PUT A LITTLE LOVE IN YOUR LIGHT

Everyone knows that just a little love is never enough, so when the walls, floor, furniture and bed linens were maxed out in *amore,* Jennifer upped the ante with the light fixture. The simple capiz pendant went into the red with the easy addition of a handful of paper hearts.

Capiz **PENDANT LIGHT, TABLE LAMPS,** Union Lighting & Furnishings; **OTTOMANS,** HomeSense.

7 DREAM A LITTLE DREAM

In a room like this, it's not only night breezes that seem to whisper "I love you." It's also sentimental details like custom heart-patterned bedding, a hand-drawn gallery of "chalk frames" and luxurious layers of pink and red that flirt with the Valentine's Day theme.

Black Ung Drill **MIRROR,** IKEA; white **MIRRORS,** HomeSense; ceramic button **WALL DECORATIONS,** Fabricland.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Rhapsodic variations of blue and yellow are used throughout the magnificent living room – the first room one sees when entering the house.

Cashmere P5177-25 **WALL PAINT,** Para Paints; **SOFA,** Stylus Made To Order Sofas; **CHAIRS,** Crate and Barrel; mustard, yellow floral and white **TOSS CUSHIONS,** HomeSense; blue ikat **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics; **MIRROR,** Pier 1 Imports.

STARTING FROM SCRATCH

The story of one creative couple, their power tools and their adventures transforming their house into a home.

TEXT IRIS BENAROIA | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANGUS FERGUSSON
STYLING ANN MARIE FAVOT

A reciprocating saw is not what you'd expect to find on a bridal registry. But Jennifer Flores and Sean Stanwick had a specific plan for their wedding booty. Shortly after the couple married in 2007, they purchased a modest 1950s home in midtown Toronto. It was boxy with a red brick exterior and was owned by an older woman who shared the space with her cats. Most notably, the interior was blanketed in pink shag carpeting, including an upstairs bathroom.

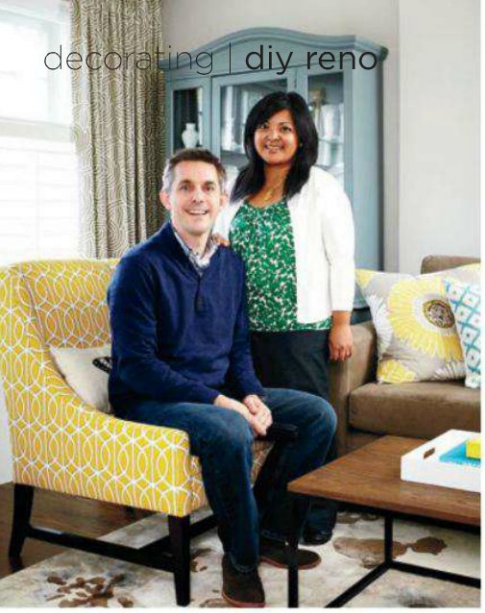
Most people would've taken one look at the sea of Pepto Bismol and ran, but not these two: "We saw the house as a laboratory we could experiment in," says Jennifer, the perky design blogger behind Rambling Renovators – a site that gets 4,000 readers a day and more than 100,000 page views a month. Sean, an architect, is the muscle behind many of the couple's projects at home. "I design, he builds – it's a perfect match," says Jennifer. "When we got married, we put a lot of power tools on our wedding registry. When we moved from our condo, we got to try them out," she says with genuine excitement, which explains the picture-perfect DIY wainscotting in the dining room and nearby marble fireplace surround installed by Sean.

They've had other successes, too: They built an adorable window seat in their three-year-old daughter Chloe's bedroom, affixed panelling behind the

TOP LEFT Homeowners Jennifer Flores and Sean Stanwick blew up a photo of their daughter, Chloe, which takes pride of place in the living room.

LEFT Custom radiator covers made from white-painted perforated metal, built by Sean, are meant to resemble pieces of furniture.

Martha Stewart Living Schoolhouse Slate MSL270 **DRESSER PAINT,** The Home Depot.



bed in the master bedroom that was so impressive it landed them on *The Nate Berkus Show* last year, and have stripped and painted several of the home's nicest pieces of furniture. An extreme crafter, Jennifer has also recently taken up sewing.

Writing about their inventive designs is the couple's raison d'être. "It's a fun process to see our house coming together," says Jennifer of the 1,400-square-foot, three-bedroom dwelling. She particularly likes how blogging, which initially felt like "writing in a vacuum (you really never know if anyone is reading)," has created a communal, supportive network among the online design community. Plus, "it really gives you confidence to trust your own taste," she says.

Speaking of acts of derring-do, instead of blasting down all of the walls on the main floor, which is a typical move in renovations of this type, the couple maintained separate rooms. The idea to do so came from the architecture itself.

LEFT, FROM TOP
Homeowners Jennifer Flores and Sean Stanwick are the dynamic duo behind the Rambling Renovators blog; choosing white for the kitchen's Shaker-style cabinets feels modern and youthful; diverse graphic patterns in a bright colour scheme pop against the neutral backdrop.

CABINETRY, Aya Kitchens; **BACKSPLASH,** Olympia Tile & Stone; **FLOOR TILES,** Saltillo Imports.

The couple added wainscotting to the dining room, which lends formality and a custom look to the space.

"I LIKE THE FORMALITY OF AN INTIMATE DINING ROOM. IF IT'S OPEN TO THE KITCHEN, YOU SEE THE MESS AND HEAR THE CHAOS."

JENNIFER FLORES, HOMEOWNER

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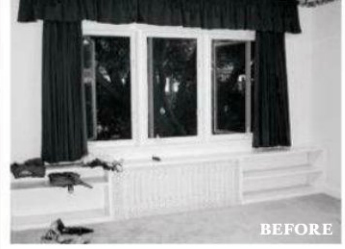
"This 1950s house dictates 'make me cozy, make me a house for a family,' so that's how we approached it," says Jennifer. "And I like the formality of an intimate dining room. I think if it's open to the kitchen, you see the mess and you hear the chaos."

With that, she leads the way to the second floor. At every stop are thoughtful touches, such as the DIY radiator cover in the foyer complete with wee cubbyholes for Chloe's shoes. In the master bedroom, Jennifer walks over to the modern-retro drapes: "These were very popular on my blog. People love them!" She takes hold of one of the panels and, stroking it like it's a baby bird, says, "they have full blackout lining and would you believe it?" Her voice drops a decibel. "Including the fabric and custom sizing, they were less than $400." She says this like it's the best news of the day. And, for this intrepid DIYer, it really is.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



Jennifer bought the capiz chandelier on eBay seven years ago. Its sculptural shape is emphasized by a ceiling medallion the couple added. The sophisticated panelling behind the bed (installed by the DIY duo) is made of inexpensive MDF.

SCONCE, Pottery Barn; **DRAPERY FABRIC & SEWING,** Tonic Living; **ROMAN SHADE,** Rona; **HEADBOARD,** UpCountry; **SIDE TABLE,** Moveline Liquidations.

"WE SAW THE HOUSE AS A LABORATORY WE COULD EXPERIMENT IN."

JENNIFER FLORES, HOMEOWNER

Get to know the creator of Rambling Renovators, **STYLEATHOME.COM/RAMBLINGRENOVATORS.**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Jennifer and Sean built the play kitchenette – it's one of Chloe's favourite toys; the headboard, found by Jennifer at a hotel liquidator, is painted with fun fat stripes; the chandelier was draped in pennant streamers for Chloe's birthday.

WALL DECALS, Elly Nelly; **BEDDING,** HomeSense; **HEADBOARD,** Moveline Liquidations; **ARTWORK,** Yumi Yumi.

15 RENO RULES

1. GET ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR HOME. Spend time living in your space so you can better understand how you want it to function.

2. SET PRIORITIES. Knowing your priorities (more space, updated finishes, improved layout) will help you decide where to spend your renovating dollars.

3. DIY OR TRADESPEOPLE? Do you have the time and skill to DIY? Bring in the professionals for those tasks you don't have the knowledge or inclination to do yourself. Do your research and find a tradesperson that's reputable, licensed and insured. Ask for references from past customers.

4. COMMUNICATE CLEARLY. Ensure tasks and responsibilities are laid out and agreements are in writing. Always hold back a percentage of the fee until after final inspection to ensure the work meets your expectations.

5. FOLLOW THE CODE. Always find out which permits are necessary before you start any work.

6. SEEK INSPIRATION. Tear images out of magazines and bookmark inspirational ideas from your favourite design blogs. Compile these together and refer to them through your renovations.

7. DO YOUR RESEARCH. Research the materials, appliances and fixtures you want to include in your remodel. Create a wish list.

8. DRAW A FLOOR PLAN. Incorporate the proper measurements and locations for furniture, appliances and fixtures into your layout.

9. MEASURE TWICE. Keep detailed measurements of your rooms, doorways, stairwells and entranceways. That way, when you're in the store pondering if the new gas range you're considering will fit down the hallway, you'll know!

10. MAP IT OUT. Use painter's tape on the floor to mark furniture and appliance placement. Want to have sconces over your bedside table? Plan for an outlet nearby. Putting in an extra-long tub? Decide that before you do the framing.

11. THINK ABOUT THE DETAILS. Consider how the room functions. Which way should the door swing? Where should you put the refrigerator so that it doesn't block traffic? These small details impact the comfort and enjoyment of your room.

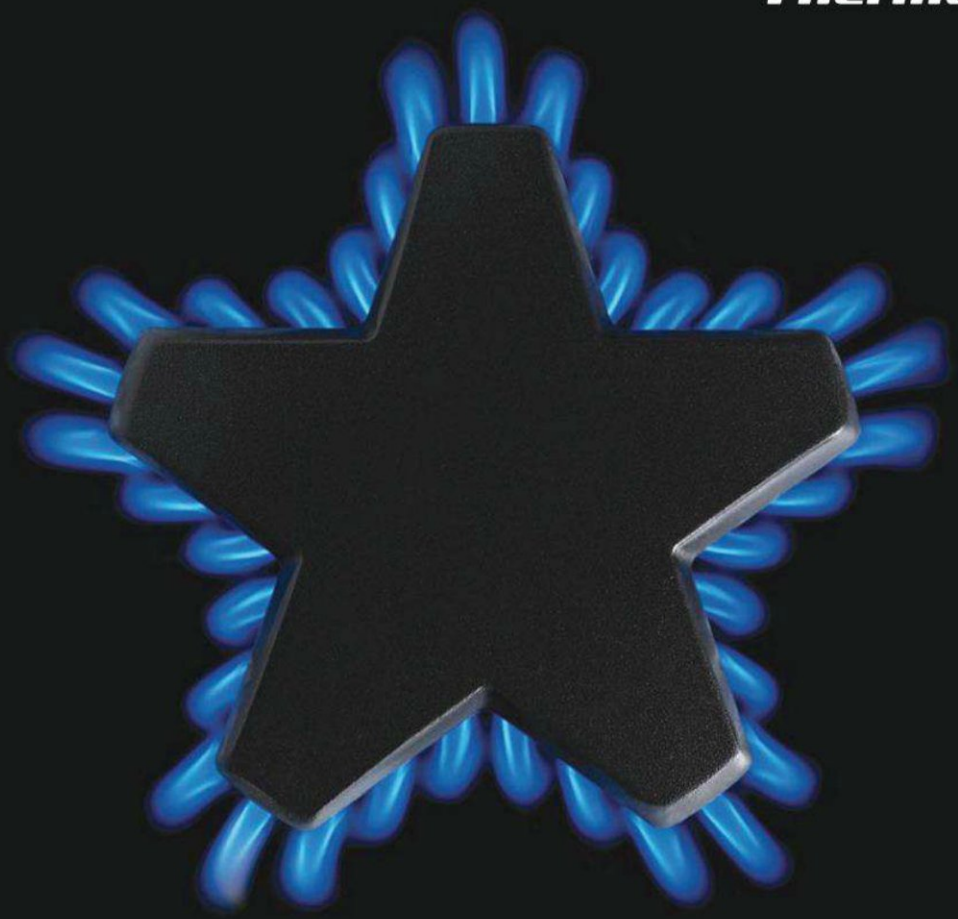
12. KNOW YOUR SCOPE. Know what home renovations you want ahead of time. Be aware of "scope creep" and resist the urge to expand a kitchen reno into a whole house remodel. However, recognize there may be certain things that are cheaper to do if you tack them onto your existing renovation plans.

13. BUDGET WISELY. Create a realistic budget and allow 10 to 15 percent for contingencies. If you're close to your limit, consider ways you can save.

14. SPLURGE AND SAVE. A well-designed room has a mix of things that catch your eye and ones that blend into the background. Pick just a few highlights to spend your money on.

15. EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED. Don't be surprised to open up a wall and find unforeseen damage and repairs that need to be made. These surprises are just part of the renovating adventure!

Thermador



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82 *hotel-style glam*

90 *fresh contemporary*

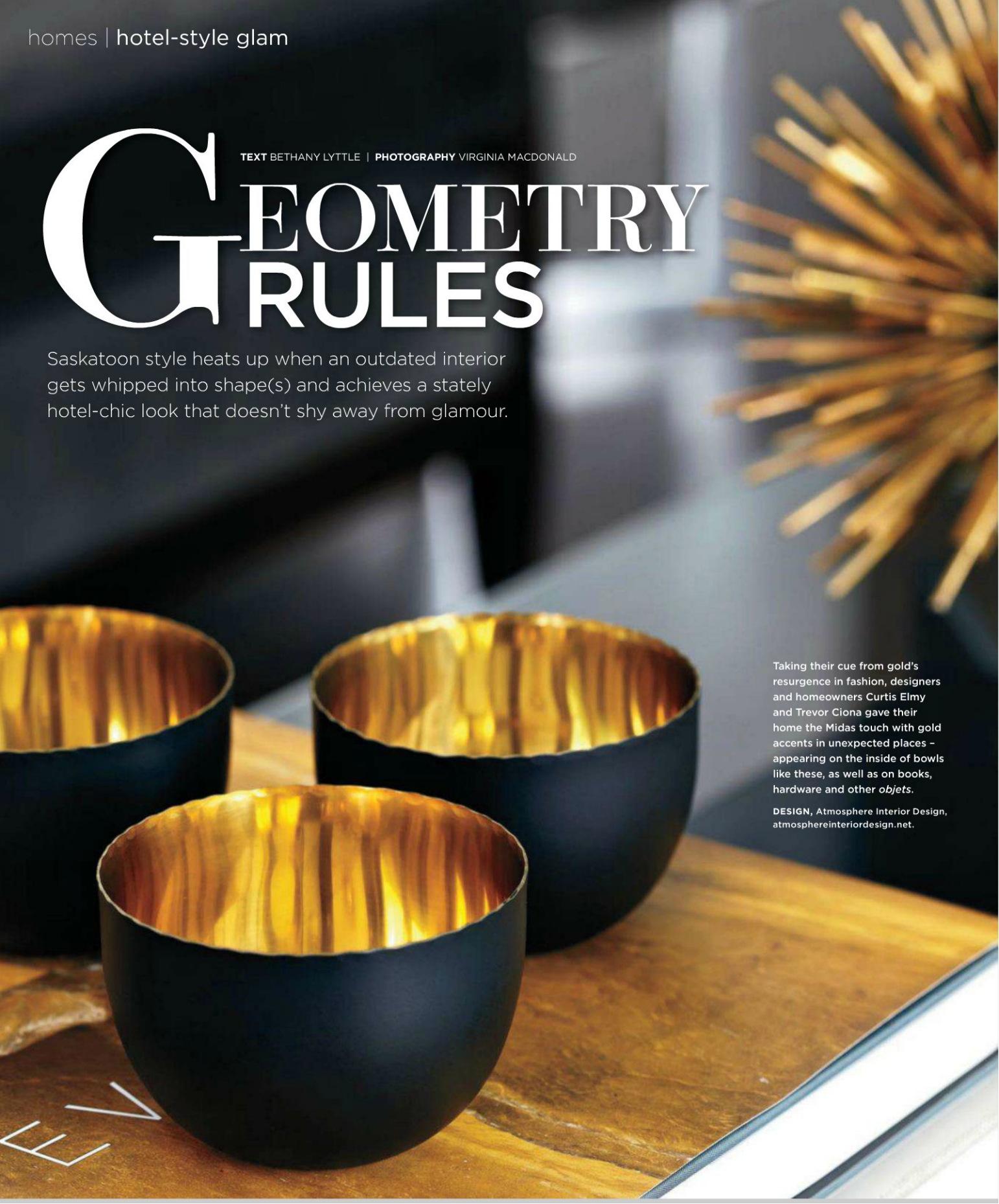
96 *the editor's kitchen*

FEBRUARY **2012**

TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** VIRGINIA MACDONALD

GEOMETRY RULES

Saskatoon style heats up when an outdated interior gets whipped into shape(s) and achieves a stately hotel-chic look that doesn't shy away from glamour.



Taking their cue from gold's resurgence in fashion, designers and homeowners Curtis Elmy and Trevor Ciona gave their home the Midas touch with gold accents in unexpected places – appearing on the inside of bowls like these, as well as on books, hardware and other *objets*.

DESIGN, Atmosphere Interior Design, atmosphereinteriordesign.net.

Adding this statement fireplace was a daring decision, but had a big payoff. Covered in Carrara marble, the surround was extended to the ceiling with white architectural panelling. The dark walls serve to highlight the hearth and make the living room more cozy.

Gray 2121-10 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; sunburst **MIRROR,** Global Views; **SCONCES,** Sonneman; Kelly Wearstler Flair **CHAIR FABRIC** in Noir, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom.

LEFT This entryway isn't only hotel chic, it's functional, too. The custom benches can be pulled out to rest on when putting on boots and shoes, while the narrow console serves as a clutter collector for keys and cellphones.

CONSOLE, Nuevo Living; custom **BENCHES,** Atmosphere Interior Design; **TABLE LAMPS,** Arteriors Home; **BOWL,** Michael Aram.

BELOW Saskatoon's kings of style: designers Curtis Elmy (left) and Trevor Ciona of Atmosphere Interior Design.

OPPOSITE Inspired by an American original, this six-foot-square circle painting was commissioned by the couple to create a focal point in the room – its geometric motif, something that suits the style of the house, isn't a coincidence!

Barcelona **COFFEE TABLE,** Knoll; **TABLE LAMPS,** Arteriors Home; **SIDE TABLES,** Pink & Brown; **HIDE,** Saddleman's of Santa Fe; black and white **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Thomas Paul.

After years of living in lofts and condos, Curtis Elmy and Trevor Ciona were intent on owning a fully detached home. Eight months into their search, though, the couple realized that it would be a lot easier said than done. The Saskatoon real estate market was booming at the time and finding a home *at all*, not to mention one they liked, was a real challenge. "When we eventually found this house," recalls Curtis, "it had the most bland and boring interior you've ever seen!" But the home had huge windows overlooking the Saskatchewan River, and the couple was sold. "You can redesign a house," says Trevor with a laugh, "but you can't create a view as gorgeous as this."

Co-owners of Saskatoon's stylish Atmosphere Interior Design, Curtis and Trevor knew that they were up to the task of updating the tired interior and adding a touch of personality.

The couple first embarked on a fast-forward gut job that started with removing closets from the home's entryway. "A lot of people are horrified at the prospect of removing closets. But the truth is, they take up a lot of space and, from an architectural point of view, they often detract from a room's appearance," says Trevor. "I'm not saying you shouldn't have closets at all – just that you need fewer than you think." So it was an easy decision to remove the entryway's closets, making it feel like less of a bedroom, much more spacious and, well, welcoming.

Throughout the house, the pair continued their mission to visually expand the interior, removing walls encasing the foyer, family room and dining room. To accentuate the soaring ceilings of the great room, they built a fireplace with a towering 16-foot-high millwork surround extension that's added a focal point to the space. Adding crown moulding and wider baseboards here and throughout the rest of the house has leant it a more refined, finished air.

One small change that had a huge impact was replacing the existing wood banister-and-spindle railing with an open metal key-lock version. It gives the house that hip, modern appearance reigned by geometrics that became the jumping-off point for the rest of the decor. "It's funny, but that small change is what really drove

"If there's room in our suitcases, there's room for more vases and books. They're interesting to look at and changeable!"
TREVOR CIONA, HOMEOWNER & DESIGNER

"Think of a renovation as making broad strokes. Work until the bones of the house are neutral and consistent. Then use decorative elements to make it your own and add glamour and pizzazz!"

CURTIS ELMY, HOMEOWNER & DESIGNER

our aesthetic," says Trevor. They chose the railing to create a strong visual statement, its key-lock design playing into their love of Kelly Wearstler fabrics, which, like the railing, are bold and geometric, yet have a glamorous, vintage vibe. Together, these elements served as the baseline for a home that is stylish, not stuffy. Now geometrics appear, in one form or another, in every room in the house, dutifully displayed in reliefs that are either oversized or petite, round or square, but all unified by their colour story: blacks, greys and whites.

Offsetting this? Touches of yellow and gold, everywhere! "Gold introduces warmth to what would otherwise be a very cold palette," explains Trevor. So in this haute home, you'll find gold on benches and mirror frames, cushions and lamps, books and other *objets*. The idea for gold accents came from Curtis and Trevor's love of fashion magazines, where the pair sources ample inspiration from their pages. "When you're looking for ideas in your favourite decorating magazines, don't forget to look to fashion, too. It's our secret weapon! You can learn so much about how fabric patterns and tones work together by looking at clothing," says Trevor.

Another Curtis-and-Trevor recommendation? Renovate, but don't over-renovate! "It isn't necessary to change every little tile, every baseboard and every countertop in the house," says Curtis. Add or subtract enough to make the house feel open and new, but remember you'll be decorating it when you're done. Renovate to decorate. "Think of a renovation as making broad strokes. Work until the bones of the house are neutral and consistent. Then use decorative elements to make it your own and add glamour and pizzazz!"

By simply opening up the space and imbuing it with the chic, stately charisma of a boutique hotel, they finally got their dream home, and made the whole effort look both easily said and done! If only this stately, chic look came as easily said and done to everyone....

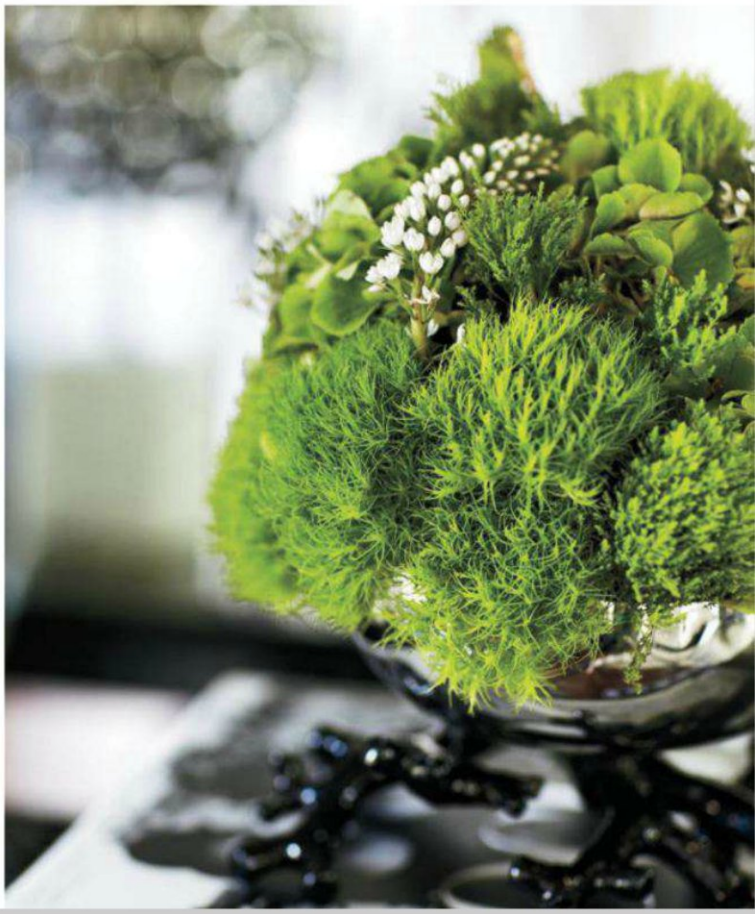
Placed next to the massive windows overlooking the stunning Saskatchewan River, the dining table is meant to offer guests the garnish of a gorgeous view. The vertical row of mirrors plays into the geometric theme and adds a little sparkle. "We saw them in a restaurant in Las Vegas," recalls Curtis, "so we tracked them down for ourselves."

DINING TABLE, SohoConcept; Flat **BAR CHAIRS,** Knoll; Amphora **VASE,** 18Karat; **MIRRORS,** Global Views.

RIGHT, TOP "To be honest, we entertain a lot, but we don't cook very much," says Trevor. So the couple kept to the kitchen basics and instead emphasized the decor: Dark cabinetry was selected to make white accessories stand out, the tiles of the marble mosaic backsplash were laid vertically and in various sizes, and light fixtures were hung close to the ceiling to allow for unobstructed river views.

TABLE, Pink & Brown; Ibiza **CHAIRS,** Room Service; Foscarini Caboche **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Gabriel Ross; **PENDANT LIGHTS** (over island), Tech Lighting; white **VASES,** Jonathan Adler.

RIGHT, BOTTOM Bright green blooms impart organic forms and natural beauty to an otherwise linear space.



A dark, dramatic bedroom is always a must for Curtis and Trevor. "We work long days and this is where we unwind," says Curtis. The wallpaper's intricate geometric pattern could have read as too busy, but the couple tempered it by keeping everything else in the space as solid blocks of colour.

SIDE TABLE, TABLE LAMP, Bungalow 5; custom **HEADBOARD,** Silva; custom **BENCH,** custom **BEDDING,** Atmosphere Interior Design.

5 online design connections

Great design is just a few clicks away! Curtis Elmy and Trevor Ciona share their favourites!

1. Jonathan Adler
"We love Jonathan Adler for his unique sculptural items and decor," says Trevor. In Saskatoon, some retailers will bring these pieces in upon request. Try it where you live! (jonathanadler.com)

2. Restoration Hardware
The couple's choice for hardware, hotel-style bedding and vanity mirrors. (restorationhardware.com)

3. Silva
"The great thing about Silva is its wide range of fully customizable furniture styles," says Trevor. "All can be ordered through a designer for delivery to your city – or one nearby." (silva4home.com)

4. Gabriel Ross
Curtis and Trevor's go-to for contemporary kitchen lighting and furniture. (gabrielross.com)

5. Amazon.ca
Says the couple: "This is our resource for coffee-table books because shipping is incredibly fast!" (amazon.ca)

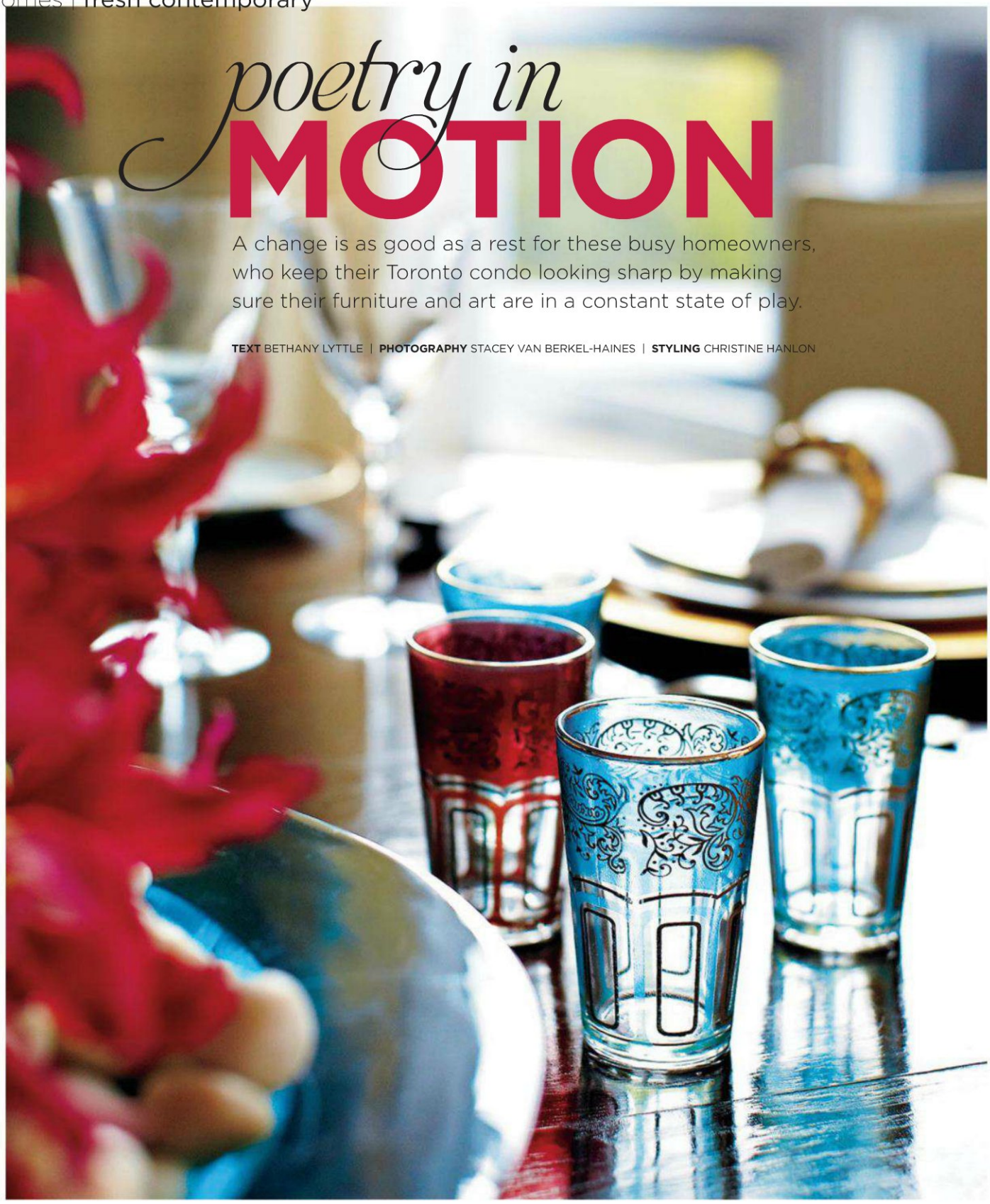
RIGHT The wallpaper's geometric pattern on a shiny foil background lends a dash of vintage glamour to the regal bedroom.

Sussex **WALLPAPER,** Designers Guild; **SCULPTURE,** DwellStudio.

BELOW, FROM LEFT The railing's key-lock geometric design modernized the house and gave it boutique-hotel appeal; clear bath accessories, Carrara marble and the occasional splash of green feel like they could be found in a spa; decorative and simple, the vanity hardware suggests the sophistication of the adjoining bedroom – "We wanted to keep the bathroom clean and airy since the bedroom is so bold," explains Curtis.

ACCESSORIES, HomeSense; **SCONCES,** Eureka Lighting; **FIXTURES,** Aquabrass; **MIRROR,** Restoration Hardware.

FOR SOURCES,
SEE OUR WORKBOOK



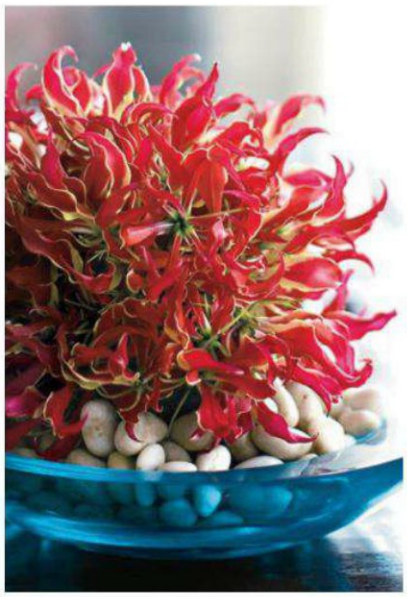
poetry in MOTION

A change is as good as a rest for these busy homeowners, who keep their Toronto condo looking sharp by making sure their furniture and art are in a constant state of play.

TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY VAN BERKEL-HAINES | **STYLING** CHRISTINE HANLON

"We were hot-off-the-press married when we bought this antique Chinese cabinet," says the homeowner of the dining room's focal point. The cabinet's warm bronze and muted red colours are complemented by the mellow cream suede of the armchairs and dark wood table the couple found in New York. Accents in blue or green are added seasonally.

Red Asian **CABINET,** ABC Carpet & Home; **DINING TABLE,** Mecox Gardens; **RUG,** Elte; **THROW,** Manor; **FLOWERS** (throughout), Fresh Floral Creations.



Two high-energy professionals and an expressive five-year-old daughter in a contemporary Toronto condo definitely spell GO! Mornings here are a blur, and the rest of the day is a frenetic stream of choreographed mayhem on fast forward. So by the time the busy trio meets up in the evening, each has only one thing in mind: the sofa!

Tumbling into the night together, homework askew, music playing, a slumping pile of toys and magazines on the floor, it's the relaxing appeal of this home that helps to revitalize the young family for the next day's challenges. "This is our place to recharge," says the homeowner, "so we want our home to be a real haven." For that reason, she decorated the 3,000-square-foot space in a tranquil blend of oversized contemporary furnishings, warm-toned Asian antiques and art collected by the couple. "We chose this furniture because it could withstand our active lifestyle," says the

TOP LEFT Everyday tableware with hints of red and gold plays to the Asian influence celebrated throughout the condo.

Ginkgo **DISHWARE,** Philippe Deshoulières.

ABOVE & BOTTOM LEFT Large groupings of simple blooms and foliage in a fresh green and white palette add a modern touch to the living room and provide an architectural counterpoint to the couple's art collection.

"We saw them in a store window as we were driving along, screeched to a halt and threw them into the car!" says the homeowner of the 200-pound Buddhas that flank the fireplace in the living room.

Asian antiques can be found in most rooms of the home, their intricacy and patina a gracious contrast to the sleek furnishings throughout. Otherwise, decoration is minimal, with an emphasis on greenery like braided ferns and orchids to help create a relaxing space for the family at the end of the day.

PENDANT LIGHT, Restoration Hardware; **SOFA, SIDE CHAIRS,** Elte; **SOFA TABLE,** Hollace Cluny.

homeowner. "Then we balanced its simplicity with Asian antiques, not only because we're very drawn to their look but also because the pieces impart a sense of tradition and formality without being overly fussy."

Throughout the condo, the walls are painted a warm white to complement the rest of the design elements, most of which favour creams, coral reds and warm browns. "People often ask what colours I used and how I chose them. Believe me, it wasn't paint chips! Instead, I started by asking myself 'How do we want to feel when we're here?' Just because you love sunny yellow or silvery grey doesn't mean that's what makes you feel relaxed after a long day at the office or a weekend of running to soccer games. This warm white, though, is a shade I find genuinely soothing."

That's a good thing, because the paint on the walls is probably the only element here that ever stays the same. "We thrive on

Pale cream is coupled with a darker ivory tone and mixed with a selection of watery blues and greens in linens, artwork and accessories for a serene master bedroom.

Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams **BED,** mirrored **SIDE TABLE,** Elte; **TOSS CUSHION** (on slipper chair), Manor; **ARTWORK** (above bed), Silke Otto-Knapp; **ARTWORK** (to right of bed), Glen Rubsamen; **BED LINENS,** Au Lit Fine Linens.

OPPOSITE The homeowners are avid art collectors who move their pieces from wall to wall to keep the home's look dynamic. Hanging above an antique Asian console in the dining room is a photograph that portrays dishware in a museum. Exotic glory lilies provide a colourful contrast. **ARTWORK,** Candida Höfer.

change," says the homeowner, "and I mean constant change! We're forever moving the furniture around, carrying the art from one wall to another or buying new light fixtures. It's like moving without the boxes!"

On any given weekend, you can find the whole family pitching in to move a sofa or tug the rug from under one table so it can be used near a bed instead. "Life shouldn't be hampered by how you decorate; it should drive how you decorate," the homeowner says. "When kids are young, big open spaces with room for jumping and playing are important. Why cluster the furniture? If friends are coming for wine and cheese, just draw the furniture up to the fireplace to make it cozy."

Among the ever-changing aesthetic details are the fresh foliage and flowers that the couple considers a must in every room. "They smell good and they go with everything," says the homeowner. "I like greens, such as ferns, and orchids, because they have a smooth modern appearance that looks great with anything, including our art collection." She also points out the customized window treatments, even though the condo is rented, not owned. "This is our home and we want it to feel that way," she says. "If hanging some drapes, putting up some great light fixtures or moving a few things from one room to another lets us appreciate our stuff in a new way and have a little fun together, then why not?"

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

TEXT SUZANNE MOUTIS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** VIRGINIA MACDONALD | **STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

elements of SURPRISE

Croma Design's winning plan for editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin's IKEA kitchen makeover reveals that knowing your clients as well as you know your products is the recipe for success.

HORSE PORTRAIT, KC RASMUSSEN; UTENSIL HOLDER, GLENN BAR STOOLS, IKEA STOCKHOLM FLOOR LAMP, RÅTTVIK GLASSES, SLOM BOTTLE WITH STOPPER, TROLLSTA TRAY TABLE, IKEA; POT, THERMADOR; RUG, TROVE; SILK WALLPAPER, METRO WALLCOVERINGS; VIRTUALLY INVISIBLE 791 SPEAKERS, BOSE

1 USING THE SAME STONE AS ON THE BACKSPLASH, ASIA MARBLE & GRANITE BOOK-MATCHED AND INSTALLED THE CALCUTTA MICHAELANGELO MARBLE FROM ANTICA TILE & STONE'S VAST SELECTION FOR THE FIREPLACE SURROUND. THE PERFECTION OF THE PAIRING MAKES THE MARBLE LOOK LIKE A PIECE OF ART.

18 design details

When *Style at Home* ran a poll in our June 2011 issue asking readers to vote on the design for editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin's IKEA kitchen makeover, we were thrilled with the number of responses we received. The winning plan came from Toronto's Croma Design, who proposed a look of organic sophistication for Erin's new space and included all her musts: light, storage, chef-worthy appliances from Thermador and streamlined appeal. Here, the results are revealed: a room so layered and lovely that even Erin, our queen of elegant design, learned some lessons in the finer details in life.

2 ERIN LOVED THE FIREPLACE THAT WAS IN THE KITCHEN, BUT WANTED AN UPDATED, EFFICIENT VERSION. SPARK'S FIRE RIBBON GAS FIREPLACE, WITH ITS CONTEMPORARY APPEAL, FIT THE BILL.

3 SMOKED OAK KALISPELL WIDE-PLANK ENGINEERED HARDWOOD FLOORS FROM KENTWOOD/CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME HAVE A MATTE FINISH THAT HIDES SCUFFS AND PAW PRINTS.

starting points

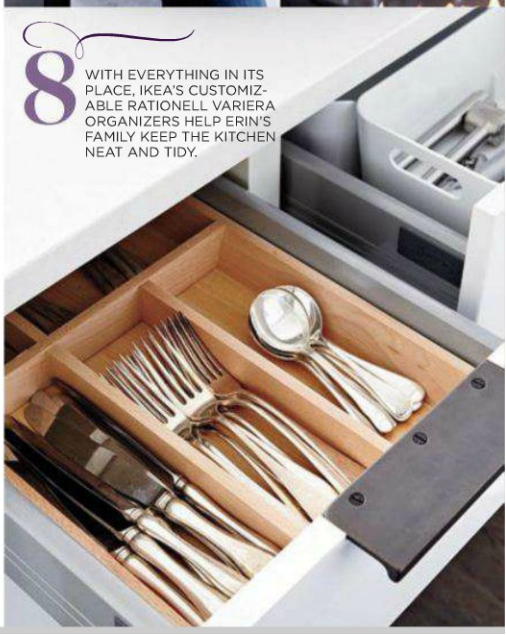
When you're dealing with a high-energy family, including one member who has definite ideas about decor, you have your work cut out for you. Luckily, Ryan Martin, Amy Kent and Michelle Lamontagne of Croma Design are comfortable working with homeowners who know what they want, and are familiar with IKEA products and services. Working in collaboration with IKEA's installation services and the experts at Thermador, they came up with a plan for Erin's kitchen that was relatively simple. She's fortunate enough to have all the space she needs, and the room had good bones. "The kitchen had a nice flow," says Ryan. "All we needed to do was put the living and working areas into their natural places."

4 THERMADOR'S POWERFUL WALL-MOUNTED HOOD HARMONIZES WITH THE PROFESSIONAL SERIES PRO GRAND RANGE AND THE DECOR. THE GRIDDLE IS CURRENTLY THE FAMILY'S FAVOURITE FEATURE!

5 THE APPEAL OF A TRADITIONAL BRIDGE FAUCET IS FOUND IN THIS CONTEMPORARY KOHLER PURIST VERSION.

6 HAND-FORGED RUSTIC BRONZE PULLS FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARDWARE WERE CHOSEN SPECIFICALLY FOR THEIR ELEGANCE AND LINEAR MODERN SHAPE.

7 A BUILT-IN, FULLY AUTOMATIC THERMADOR COFFEE STATION ABOVE THE MICROWAVE MAY SEEM DECADENT, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY PRACTICAL FOR THIS FAMILY OF NON-MORNING PEOPLE!



8 WITH EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE, IKEA'S CUSTOMIZABLE RATIONELL VARIERA ORGANIZERS HELP ERIN'S FAMILY KEEP THE KITCHEN NEAT AND TIDY.

focusing the energy

Once the vision was in place, the team set to work demolishing the old and bringing in the new. IKEA's Akurum cabinets were used in long banks to give the space a high-end custom look. The magic began to happen when the high-gloss Abstrakt doors on the lower cabinets and the island met the hand-forged bronze handles from Rocky Mountain Hardware. To soften the look and add a level of warmth, the Nexus doors on the upper cabinets and the pantry cupboards were sprayed in a dove-grey colour. The addition of stainless steel Thermador appliances, including an integrated dishwasher, flush-mount refrigerator and freezer columns, wine column and incredible chef-worthy range, allows Erin to indulge her love of gourmet cooking and entertaining.

9 IKEA'S COMFORTABLE GLENN BAR STOOLS BLEND NICELY WITH THE AESTHETICS OF THE SPACE AND TUCK AWAY NEATLY UNDER THE COUNTER.

10 MANY DESIGNS INCORPORATE DRAWERS IN THE LOWER BANK OF CABINETS, BUT CROMA CHOSE TO STICK WITH IKEA'S AKURUM CABINETS WITH HIGH-GLOSS WHITE ABSTRAKT DOORS FOR A VISUALLY SEAMLESS LOOK.

DRIFTING SNOW 10BB 83/014 (CEILING PAINT), CIL PAINTS; VASE, MARBLE BOWL, ELTE; CHEVRON TEA TOWEL, LOVELL DESIGNS; ARTWORK (THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT), TONI ONLEY, GEORGE WHITESIDE FOR IKEA; BOWLS, IKEA

11 COUNTER-DEPTH THERMADOR APPLIANCES GIVE THE IKEA AKURUM/NEXUS CABINETRY A CUSTOM LOOK, ESPECIALLY WHEN FLANKED WITH DARK OAK GABLES.

12 A SMALL BULKHEAD CREATES INTEREST ON A FLAT CEILING AND PROVIDES A REFINED LOOK TO THE IKEA CABINETS THAT ARE BROUGHT RIGHT UP TO MEET IT.

13 SHELVES WERE INSTALLED INSTEAD OF THE ORIGINAL DESIGN'S MARBLE WATERFALL COUNTERTOP TO BREAK UP THE EXPANSE OF WHITE. IN THIS HIGH-TRAFFIC AREA, HANSTONE FOR IKEA COUNTERTOPS OFFER A NO-FUSS, EASY-CLEAN, FAMILY-FRIENDLY SURFACE.

PHOTOGRAPHY XXXXXXXXXX

14

CROMA INTERPRETED ERIN'S LOVE OF ALL THINGS HERRINGBONE AND SPECIFIED THIS MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM-CUT HONED TILE BACKSPLASH FROM ANTICA TILE & STONE.

15

INVU DRAPERY'S CUSTOM SLIPCOVERS IN KRAVET'S MAKE AN IMPACT FABRIC IN STERLING WORK ON AFFORDABLE PIECES LIKE THESE IKEA STOCKHOLM EASY CHAIRS BECAUSE OF THEIR PLEASING SILHOUETTE.

STARFRUIT VASES, NICHE MODERN

making the grade

With the help of IKEA's installation services, Erin and Croma adapted the Akurum cabinets and added some custom elements. Erin fell in love with rustic handles and pulls from Rocky Mountain Hardware and the way they complemented IKEA's modern cabinets. The upper Nexus cabinets received a coat of CIL Paints' Designer Grey 50YY 63/041 to add warmth. In addition, the marble counters in the original plan were replaced with a quartz Hanstone for IKEA version, and the herringbone floor pattern was switched to one in keeping with the home's Tudor look.

The original dark space slowly gave way to a room filled with light.

have we met before?

If the image at left looks familiar, it's because you've seen something similar before. Croma Design's rendering of the plan for Erin's kitchen is very close to the final result. Turn to our Workbook for more information about how the renovation came together and details about the products shown here.

Careful choreography of movement ensures things happen in the right order.

finishing touches

In the end, the kitchen couldn't be more perfect for Erin's family. Erin got the light, fresh look she wanted, with the seamless design sensibility that only experts could provide. From the stained oak gables that frame the cabinets to the lighting plan, the almost invisible in-ceiling speakers (can you spot them on page 97?), the wine column and the herringbone motif, no detail was overlooked. Best of all, the efforts of IKEA, Thermador and Croma Design truly reflect Erin's lifestyle. The kitchen is now the true heart of this home, where the family hangs out in the evening, doing homework, cooking and reading by the fire and playing with the dogs. It's a perfect match, and isn't that what the heart of the home should be?

16

THE GLASS DOOR IN THERMADOR'S WINE COLUMN HAS A REFLECTIVE QUALITY AND COMPLEMENTS THE IKEA AKURUM/ NEXUS PANTRY CUPBOARDS, ALSO PAINTED CIL PAINTS' DESIGNER GREY.

17 A LONG-TIME FAN OF NICHE MODERN'S BEAUTIFUL LIGHT FIXTURES, ERIN FELT THIS QUILL CHANDELIER WAS A TRUE REFLECTION OF WHAT SHE WANTED THE SPACE TO BE: A MIX OF GRAPHIC LINES, GLOSSY GOOD LOOKS AND ARTISANAL TOUCHES.

18 THE PRECISE APPLICATION OF SILK WALLPAPER FROM METRO WALLCOVERINGS OFFERS A LOVELY SENSE OF OPULENCE. IT ADDS TO THE FINISHED "FURNITURE" LOOK OF THE TALL IKEA PANTRY CUPBOARDS.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR VERY GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS: IKEA, Thermador, Croma Design, Kentwood/Carpet One Floor & Home, Rocky Mountain Hardware, Antica Tile & Stone, Hanstone for IKEA, Kohler, Niche Modern, Asia Marble & Granite Inc., InVu Drapery Co., CIL Paints, Metro Wallcoverings.

SLOM BOTTLE WITH STOPPER, RÄTTVIK GLASSES, LIATORP DINING TABLE, HAROLA RATTAN CHAIRS, IKEA; BOWL (ON TABLE), ELTE; SIDE TABLE, MUUTO; RUG, TROVE; DRIFTING SNOW 10BB 83/014 (TRIM PAINT), CIL PAINTS

soup & crackers

A pairing like no other, savoury soups and crunchy crackers are a must-have combo for comfort-food lovers of every age.

RECIPES & FOOD STYLING
CLAIRE STUBBS

PHOTOGRAPHY
EDWARD POND

PROP STYLING
LARA MCGRAW

LARA SERVES UP STYLE

Prop stylist Lara McGraw has the best eye in the business for the perfect pieces to set the table. For this shoot, she chose an all-white palette warmed up with soft greys, rustic linens and the glowing patina of silver.

1. "To get the look, keep your patterns subtle," advises Lara. Play with shapes instead. Here, Lara used a selection of white bowls in mismatched forms.

2. Hearty soups like these need little embellishment, so coordinate with white flowers in minimal arrangements.

ROASTED RED PEPPER
+ TOMATO SOUP

Soup and crackers, or crackers and soup. However you say it, it's hard to imagine one without the other. The truth is, they're made for each other: the delicious salty crunch of the cracker mixing with the velvety smooth texture of the piping hot soup, complementing each other like the best of friends do. The coldest days of the winter months are a great time to indulge in a bowl of heartwarming soup, but this time, bake up a plate of that favourite sidekick as well to give your meal a fulfilling bite and an extra dose of substance. Here, in perfect harmony, are our top three recipes for fresh and hearty homemade soups and three easy-to-make, zesty mates. Mix and match them as the mood strikes you to create a meal that ranges from spicy to savoury, appetizer to entree, simple comfort to complex flavour, but always remains soul-satisfying.

CHEDDAR CRISPS

MAKES 4 DOZEN

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp each: Maldon sea salt and smoked paprika
- ¼ cup cold unsalted butter, cubed
- 8 oz aged cheddar cheese, grated
- 3 tbsp cold water

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Place the flour, salt, paprika, butter and cheddar in the bowl of a food processor. Pulse several times until the mixture is crumbly and resembles cornmeal. Add the water and process until the mixture comes together to form a ball. Wrap the ball of dough in plastic wrap and chill for at least 1 hour.

Divide the dough in half and roll out on a lightly floured surface to ⅛" thickness. Cut into 1" squares. Bring excess dough together and re-roll until all the dough is used. Transfer squares to a parchment paper-lined baking sheet, placing about 1" apart. Bake for 20 to 22 minutes, until beginning to brown at the edges. Cool completely and store in an airtight container.

CURRIED ONION CRACKERS

MAKES 3 DOZEN

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp each: baking soda and Maldon sea salt
- 2 tsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp each: crushed coriander seeds, black cumin seeds and mild curry paste
- 1 cup very finely diced sweet onion
- 1 red finger chili pepper, finely minced
- ¼ cup water
- ⅓ cup coconut oil or extra-virgin olive oil
- ¼ cup unsalted butter, melted

Preheat the oven to 325°F. In a large bowl, stir together flour through cumin. Stir in the curry paste, onion and chili pepper. Add the water, coconut oil and butter. Mix until the dough comes together to form a loose ball. Knead gently for 2 to 3 minutes to bring together. Cover the dough and let rest for 30 minutes. Knead the dough again for 1 to 2 minutes and roll out on a lightly floured surface to ¼" thickness. Using a 2½" biscuit cutter, stamp out circles and place on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet, about 2" apart. Bake for 30 minutes, until just beginning to crisp. Crackers will keep for 2 days.

ROSEMARY CORNMEAL CRACKERS

MAKES 4 DOZEN

- 1¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup cornmeal
- 1 tbsp finely chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp Maldon sea salt
- ½ cup water
- ⅓ cup olive oil

Preheat the oven to 450°F. Place 2 baking sheets in the oven to heat. In a large mixing bowl, stir together the flour, cornmeal, rosemary, baking powder and salt. Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients and add the water and olive oil. Mix well until a loose, wet dough is formed. Knead the dough gently on a lightly floured surface for 1 to 2 minutes. Divide the dough in half and roll out each piece directly onto a piece of parchment paper until very thin. Cut the dough into long triangles with a sharp knife, being careful not to cut through the paper. Working quickly, lift the parchment paper onto the preheated baking sheets and transfer to the oven. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, until the triangles begin to brown.

MINESTRONE
WITH PANCETTA,
FAGIOLI + PASTA

ROASTED RED PEPPER + TOMATO SOUP

SERVES 4 TO 6

- 3 red peppers
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 1 cup diced sweet onion
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 28-oz can San Marzano whole tomatoes, with juices
- 1 cup water or vegetable stock
- 1 tsp Maldon sea salt
- 1 tsp granulated sugar

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Cut the tops from the red peppers and discard the seeds and inner membranes. Place peppers cut side down on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet and roast for 35 to 40 minutes, until blistered and softened. Place the roasted peppers in a bowl and cover tightly with plastic wrap so the peppers steam and skins loosen. After 20 minutes, the skins should peel away easily from the roasted peppers.

Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the garlic, onion and rosemary and sauté for 10 minutes, until mixture is softened and fragrant. Add the roasted peppers, tomatoes and their juices, water or stock, salt and sugar. Cook for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Purée the soup in small batches in a blender or food processor until smooth. To serve, ladle into bowls and drizzle with some good olive oil and some crumbled cheese, if desired.

CURRIED BUTTERNUT SQUASH + RED LENTIL SOUP

SERVES 4 TO 6

- 2 lbs butternut squash, peeled and cut into 1" cubes
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1 cup finely diced sweet onion
- 1 red finger chili pepper, finely sliced
- 1 tbsp mild curry paste
- ½ cup fresh curry leaves (optional)
- 1 cup dried red lentils
- 4 cups vegetable stock
- 2 cups water
- ⅓ cup coconut milk

Preheat the oven to 375°F. On a large baking sheet, toss the cubed butternut squash with 2 tbsp of the olive oil. Roast the squash for 30 to 35 minutes, until very soft and just beginning to caramelize.

Meanwhile, heat the remaining olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the garlic, onion, chili pepper, curry paste and curry leaves. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes, until vegetables are softened and fragrant. Add the lentils and vegetable stock and cook for 15 minutes, until lentils are just cooked through.

In a food processor, purée half the butternut squash with the 2 cups of water until smooth. Add the purée to the pot, along with the coconut milk and remaining butternut squash cubes. To serve, ladle into warm bowls.

MINESTRONE WITH PANCETTA, FAGIOLI + PASTA

SERVES 4 TO 6

- 1 cup diced pancetta
- 1 cup diced white onions
- 1 cup diced carrots
- 1 cup diced fennel
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 28-oz can San Marzano whole tomatoes, with juices
- 2 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- ½ cup uncooked tubetti pasta
- 1 12-oz jar romano beans, rinsed
- ¼ cup torn fresh basil
- ¼ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Chop the pancetta and the vegetables into ¾" cubes so that the minestrone is chunky and the vegetables all cook evenly.

Heat the olive oil in a heavy-bottomed pot over medium heat. Add the diced pancetta and cook for 5 minutes, until just beginning to crisp. Add the garlic, rosemary and vegetables and cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, for 15 to 20 minutes, until vegetables are softened and gently caramelized.

Chop the tomatoes, reserving their juices, and add tomatoes and juices into the pot along with 1 cup of water and the stock. Cook for 15 minutes over a gentle heat. Add the pasta and the beans and cook for 10 minutes or until just al dente, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking. To serve, ladle into bowls and garnish with the basil and grated Parmesan.

Stay warm and satisfied this winter with more homemade soup recipes, **STYLEATHOME.COM/HOMEMADESOUPS.**

CURRIED BUTTERNUT SQUASH + RED LENTIL SOUP

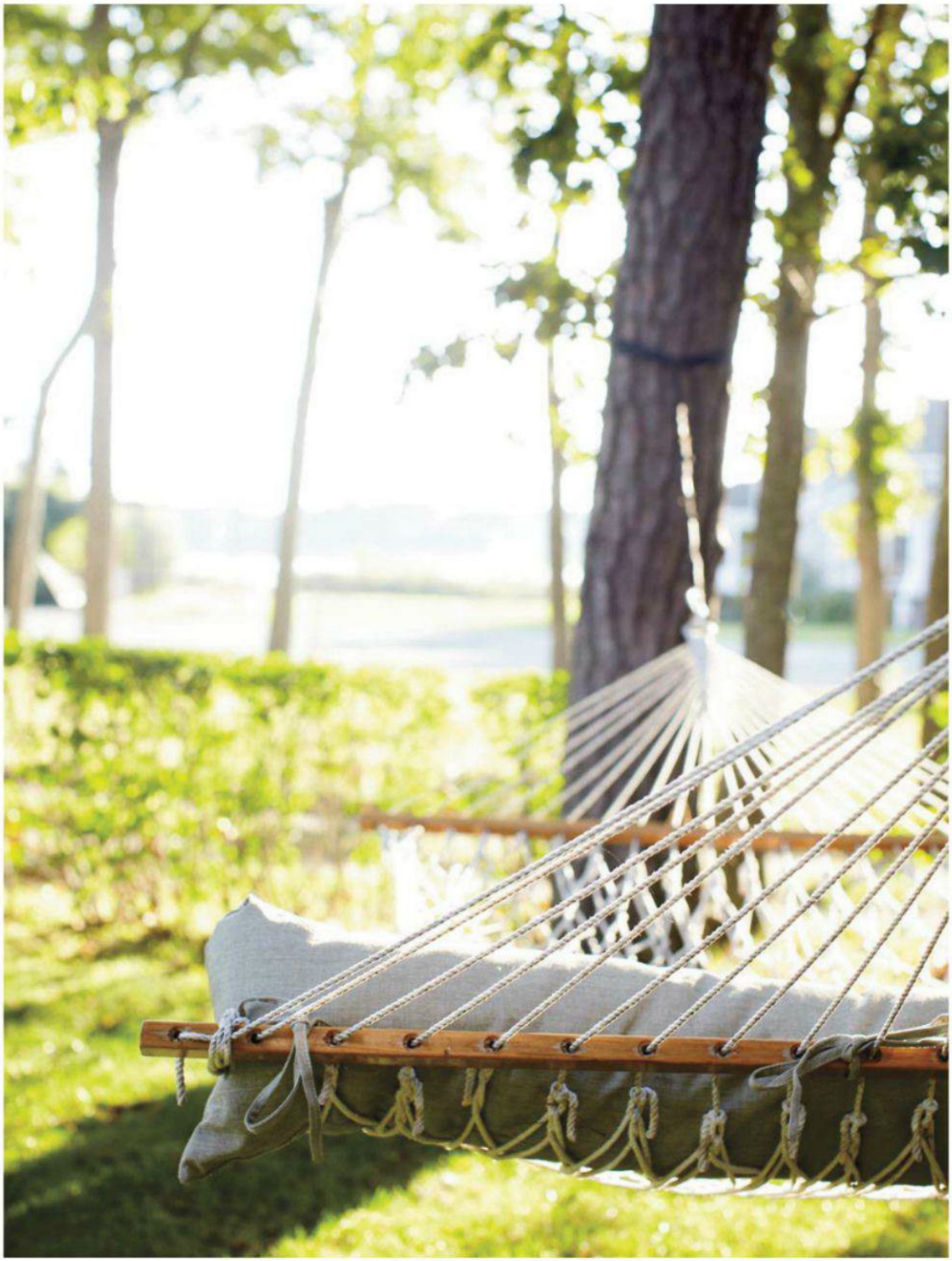


Photo credit: Stacey Haines

This is not the Internet. Feel free to curl up and settle in.

Magazines don't blink on and off. They don't show video or deliver ads that pop out of nowhere. You can't DVR magazines and you can't play games on them.

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Perhaps that explains why magazine readership has actually increased during the past 12 years. Magazines give true pleasure to readers with fresh content in every issue. And despite the escalating war for consumers' eyeballs, readers spend an average of 42 minutes per issue.

What accounts for this ongoing attraction? Why do Canadians choose to spend so much time with an unabashedly analog medium?

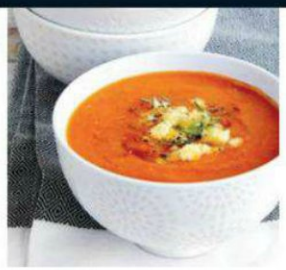
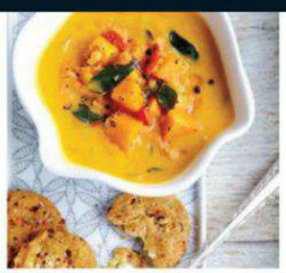
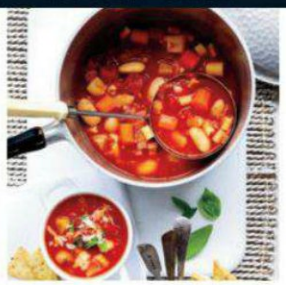
One enduring truth: people of every age love the experience of reading a magazine, even when the same content is available online. So curl up, get comfortable and enjoy the rest of this magazine.

MagaziNEs

The Power of Print

menu matchup

To score unsolicited applause for your soups, wine and spirits expert Konrad Ejbich selects six wines that meet the mark in terms of warmth and flavour.

KONRAD'S PICKS	red	OUR RECIPES	white	KONRAD'S PICKS
VIÑA ZACO TEMPRANILLO RIOJA, Spain, $15 The leading flavours in this dish are the sweet red pepper and tart tomato. Viña Zaco's young brambly fruit and herbal undertones tackle this flavourful combo head-on.		**ROASTED RED PEPPER + TOMATO SOUP** 		**CAVE SPRING RIESLING DRY,** Ontario, $15 A refreshing alternative, this Niagara wine's racy lime acidity and honeyed mint aromas play to the tartness of the tomato and the sweetness of the red pepper.
MCMANIS FAMILY VINEYARDS ZINFANDEL, California, $19 Curry is relatively subtle in this hearty soup, so there's room to appreciate the other flavours. The onion in the crackers adds a sweet richness to the dish, favouring a strong red wine with exuberant fruit notes – hence, Zinfandel.		**CURRIED BUTTERNUT SQUASH + RED LENTIL SOUP** 		**MISSION HILL RESERVE CHARDONNAY,** British Columbia, $20 The creamy sweetness of butternut squash combined with the buttery onion crackers enhances the smooth vanilla richness of this plump, oak-aged white wine. Look for a Chardonnay with balanced acidity from a northern climate.
TINI SANGIOVESE DI ROMAGNA, Italy, $9 Minestrone's origins are rustic, hearty and rural. Ingredients were locally grown and dirt cheap. What better to pair with this dish than a juicy red wine from Italy's original hillside vineyards?		**MINESTRONE WITH PANCETTA, FAGIOLI + PASTA** 		**ROCCA VENTOSA TREBBIANO,** Italy, $8 In historic Italy, minestrone became a hodgepodge of whatever ingredients were available to the poor. Beans and a bone could be improved with some cabbage or a carrot, but nothing fixed the dish as well as a flask of the local white wine.

For more wine and spirits, **STYLEATHOME.COM/WINEANDSPIRITS.**

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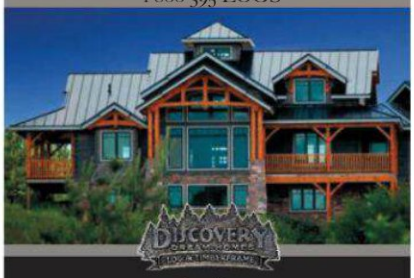

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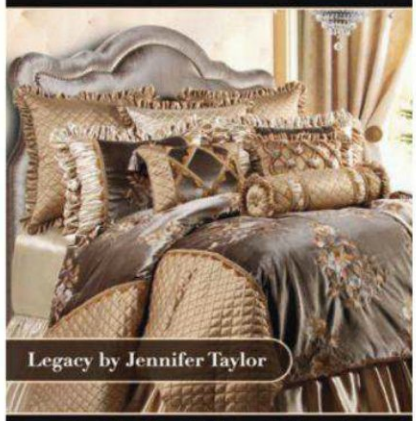

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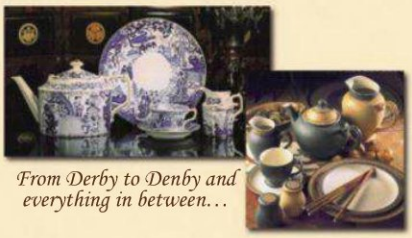

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elements of surprise

from start to finish FROM PAGE 96

THE plan

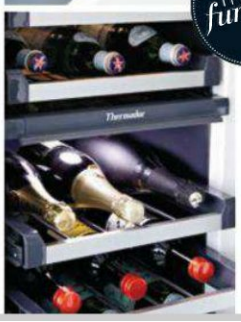
THE before

Despite beautiful panoramic windows, the previous homeowners' kitchen design (shown at right) had dark wooden cabinetry and trim, and dim lighting that left it in the dark. The poorly planned layout and lack of storage made the space hugely inefficient. Editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin requested plenty of storage and a better integration of working and living areas for her new kitchen.

THE design

The winning design was created by Ryan Martin and Amy Kent (both shown above left) and Michelle Lamontagne of Toronto-based Croma Design. Working with IKEA, they integrated the prep and living areas, allowing the flow to feel uncomplicated. They chose a soft, muted palette (shown at left) with a mix of geometric patterns that's timeless, and not too trendy.

THE function



THE result

The result is a seamless blend of beauty and function. Not just a pretty face, Erin's new space includes all of her musts: brilliant storage solutions from IKEA, including several cabinets and deep, soft-closing drawers, and chef-worthy appliances from Thermador, featuring the best range Erin has ever used and a large-capacity fridge and freezer ideal for her family of four.

IKEA Shopping List

DINING CHAIRS
Cozy rattan dining chairs were coated in CIL Paints' Designer Grey for a seamless look in keeping with the rest of the kitchen.

Harola **DINING CHAIR,** $69, IKEA, ikea.ca.

DINNERWARE
Dinera stoneware dishes come in neutral shades and are durable enough for everyday dining.

Dinera **DINNERWARE,** $30 per 18-piece set, IKEA, ikea.ca.

ORGANIZERS
With everything in its place, IKEA's customizable organizers help Erin's family keep the kitchen neat and tidy.

Rationell Variera **ORGANIZERS,** from $2, IKEA, ikea.ca.

DINING TABLE
This round dining table boasts enough room for Erin's family of four.

Liatorp **DINING TABLE,** $299, IKEA, ikea.ca.

CABINETRY
The design of the Akurum cabinets is incredibly flexible and can be customized to suit individual preferences.

Akurum **CABINETS** with Abstrakt **DOORS,** $159 per ft., and Nexus **DOORS,** $99 per ft., IKEA, ikea.ca.

COUNTERTOPS
Durable Hanstone for IKEA quartz was used for the countertops, offering a clean, streamlined aesthetic.

Hanstone for IKEA **COUNTERTOPS** in Aurora Snow, from $169 per ft., IKEA, ikea.ca.

BAR STOOLS
The bar stools are deceivingly comfortable to sit on.

Glenn **BAR STOOL,** $99, IKEA, ikea.ca.

SIDE TABLE
To boost its luxe factor, the Croma Design team topped the Trollsta with a slab of marble.

Trollsta **TRAY TABLE,** $99, IKEA, ikea.ca.

LOUNGE CHAIRS
The IKEA Stockholm Easy chair has a classic silhouette that will remain timeless.

IKEA Stockholm Easy **CHAIR,** $349, IKEA, ikea.ca.

Thermador Shopping List

RANGE
A large, pro-quality range equipped with six burners and an electric griddle is suited to Erin's affinity for gourmet cooking and entertaining.

Pro Grand **RANGE,** 48", from $17,999, Thermador, thermador.com.

HOOD
Don't worry about smoke or odours. This powerful, wall-mounted hood has adjustable ventilation settings and a cleanable filter.

Pro Grand Ventilation **WALL HOOD,** 48", $2,899, Thermador, thermador.com.

COFFEE MACHINE
The built-in coffee machine is a luxury Erin loves purely for its convenience. (And its ability to make delicious lattés!)

Savour Built-in **COFFEE MACHINE,** 24", $3,249, Thermador, thermador.com.

FRIDGE & FREEZER
New features in the refrigerator allow Erin to adjust the shelf height with the touch of a button and regulate the temperature of her produce drawers. The freezer column boasts large-capacity drawers and ample space for food storage, perfect for a large family.

Freedom Collection **FRESH FOOD COLUMN,** 30", $7,117, **FREEZER COLUMN,** 24", $7,495, Thermador, thermador.com.

WINE FRIDGE
Equipped with dual temperature zones for red and white wine, this beverage fridge (which holds up to 98 bottles) is the ultimate in luxury entertaining.

Freedom Collection **WINE COLUMN,** 18", $8,767, Thermador, thermador.com.

made to order

These artisanal elements add warmth to the kitchen and give it a custom look that's in keeping with Erin's aesthetic.

This handcrafted metal chandelier with blown-glass shades was designed by Niche Modern's co-founder Jeremy Pyles.

Quill 5 Modern **CHANDELIER** in Architectural Bronze finish with Pod Glass in Crystal, $9,500 US, Niche Modern, nichemodern.com.

Hand-cut Calcutta Michaelangelo marble from Antica Tile & Stone laid in a herringbone pattern for the backsplash is Erin's favourite feature in her new kitchen.

Calcutta Michaelangelo honed marble **BACKSPLASH,** $30 per sq. ft., Antica Tile & Stone, antica.ca.

A hand-forged design by San Francisco-based designer Ted Boerner, this hardware has contemporary linear and asymmetrical forms with a rustic patina.

Shift Pendant **KNOB** in Silicone Bronze Dark, $129, Type 'B' Catch **PULL** in Silicone Bronze Dark, $74, Type 'C' Catch **PULL** in Silicone Bronze Dark, $127, Rocky Mountain Hardware, rockymountainhardware.com.

style news

project of the month **FROM PAGE 23**

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PROJECT OF THE MONTH)

Style at Home senior editor and resident crafter **Catherine Therrien** shows you how to make this chic restaurant-style chalkboard.

MATERIALS

Ornate frame, matte black spray paint, measuring tape, ⅛" MDF board, chalkboard paint, small finishing nails, hammer, picture-hanging hardware

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Find an ornate frame and spray paint it matte black.
2. Measure the opening of the frame for the piece of MDF board. Have your building-supply store cut it down to size.
3. Paint one side of the board using specialty chalkboard paint. Apply as per the instructions.
4. Secure the board to the back of the frame using finishing nails and a hammer. Attach the picture-hanging hardware to the frame.

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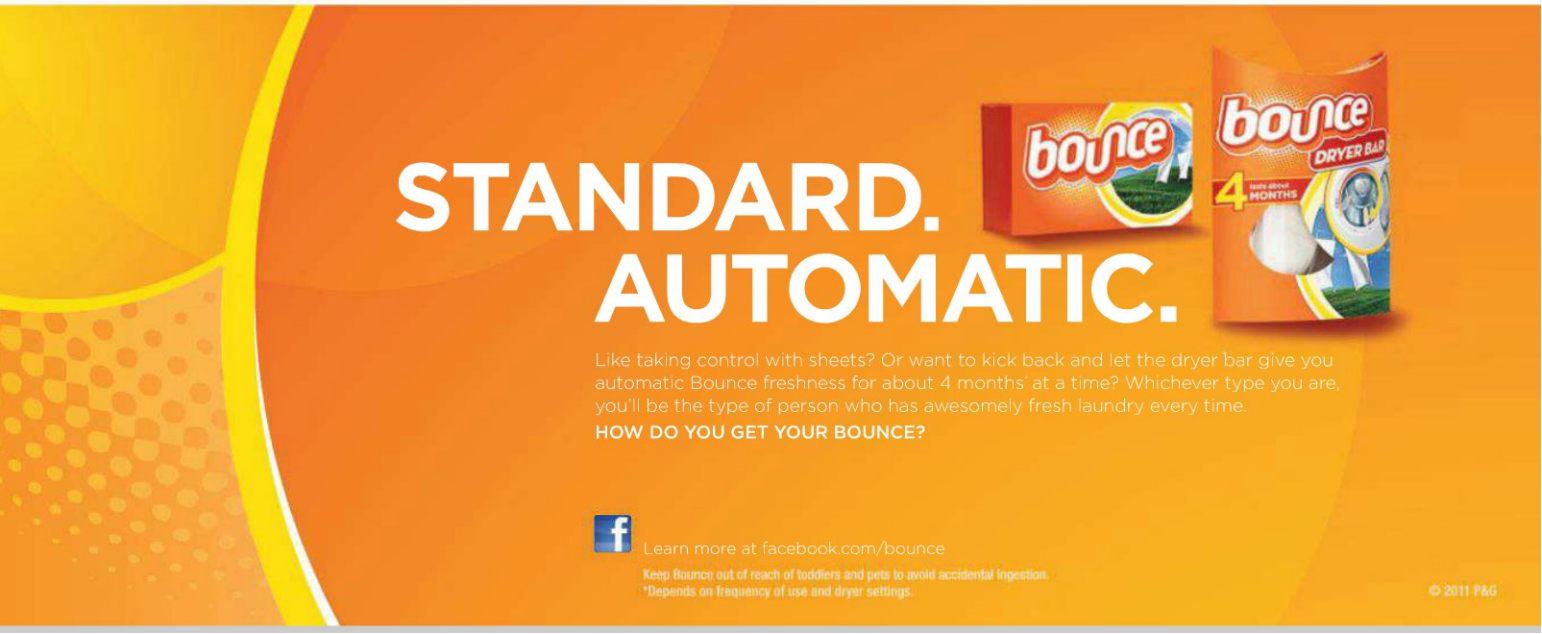
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austin, texas

If the lively music scene and unique antiques shops don't convince y'all to visit, the full-flavoured food will. This hip and laid-back city is proof that everything really *is* bigger in Texas.

STAY HOTEL SAN JOSÉ

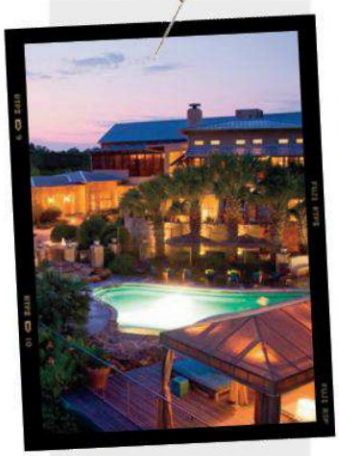
Once a motor court, this southwestern-themed bungalow hotel is a favourite of vacationing celebrities and rock 'n' roll royalty. Check out the killer music library, or take advantage of the bicycle rental service and pedal your way around the lively SoCo district.

1316 South Congress Ave., sanjosehotel.com.

EAT & DRINK LA CONDESA

From the green-apple-and-crab guacamole to the cactus- and lemongrass-infused margarita, La Condesa boasts some of Austin's best Mexican cuisine and an equally impressive drink menu, with more than 100 varieties of tequila. It was voted one of Austin's best new restaurants, with a colourful boho-style interior that's as vibrant as its flavourful food.

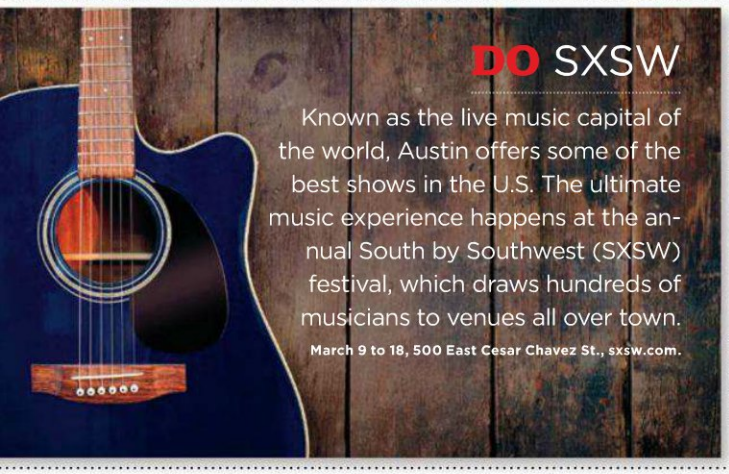
400A West 2nd St., lacondesaaustin.com.



EAT & DRINK THE SALT LICK

Smoking firepits, strings of white lights and wooden benches set the scene in this renowned, mouth-watering barbecue joint. Indulge in juicy beef brisket, fall-off-the-bone ribs and tangy colesaw, all served family-style in the centre of the table. Don't forget to pack a cooler – part of the Salt Lick's charm is that it's BYOB!

18300 Farm to Market Rd., saltlickbbq.com.



DO SXSW

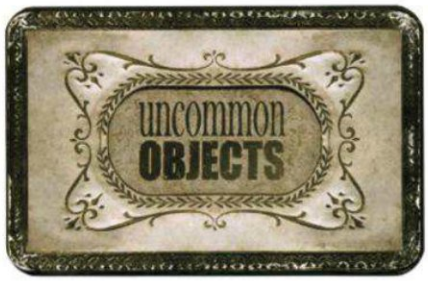
Known as the live music capital of the world, Austin offers some of the best shows in the U.S. The ultimate music experience happens at the annual South by Southwest (SXSW) festival, which draws hundreds of musicians to venues all over town.

March 9 to 18, 500 East Cesar Chavez St., sxsw.com.

DO LAKE AUSTIN SPA

This destination spa resort is just a quick drive from downtown and offers an extensive list of services in the peaceful setting of Lake Austin. Indulge in a relaxing facial or massage and then practice your sun salutations from the shoreline yoga deck.

1705 South Quinlan Park Rd., lakeaustin.com.



SHOP UNCOMMON OBJECTS

This vintage mecca is a finder's paradise, filled with everything from unique textiles to antique trinkets. Visit more than once if you can – new treasures arrive daily.

1512 South Congress Ave., uncommonobjects.com.

TEXT, ERYN CHESNEY; ILLUSTRATION, EMILIE DESROCHERS

Every issue, we pick our favourite piece from one of the featured interiors. This month, we've chosen these beautiful glass globe pendant lights, which made an eye-catching statement in homeowners Sarah and Aaron Smith's Calgary kitchen (see "Family Ties," page 64). Here's what you need to know about them.

Cyan Design Janus **PENDANT LIGHTS,** $350 each, Norlite, 1-866-890-5555.

last LOOK

WHY WE LOVE THEM

These pendant lights have glam written all over them. With their glimmering surface, classic globe shape and simple metal trim, they make looking good seem effortless.

WHY THEY WORK

Every room requires a little something to give it some life. These deeply grooved glass fixtures reflect light beautifully and enhance a space rather than dominate it.

WHERE TO USE THEM

Whether hung over an island, dining table or sink, these stunners require no introduction – your eye will immediately be drawn to their glowing ethereal quality.

PRODUCER, CATHERINE THERRIEN; PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY VAN BERKEL-HAINES (INTERIOR)

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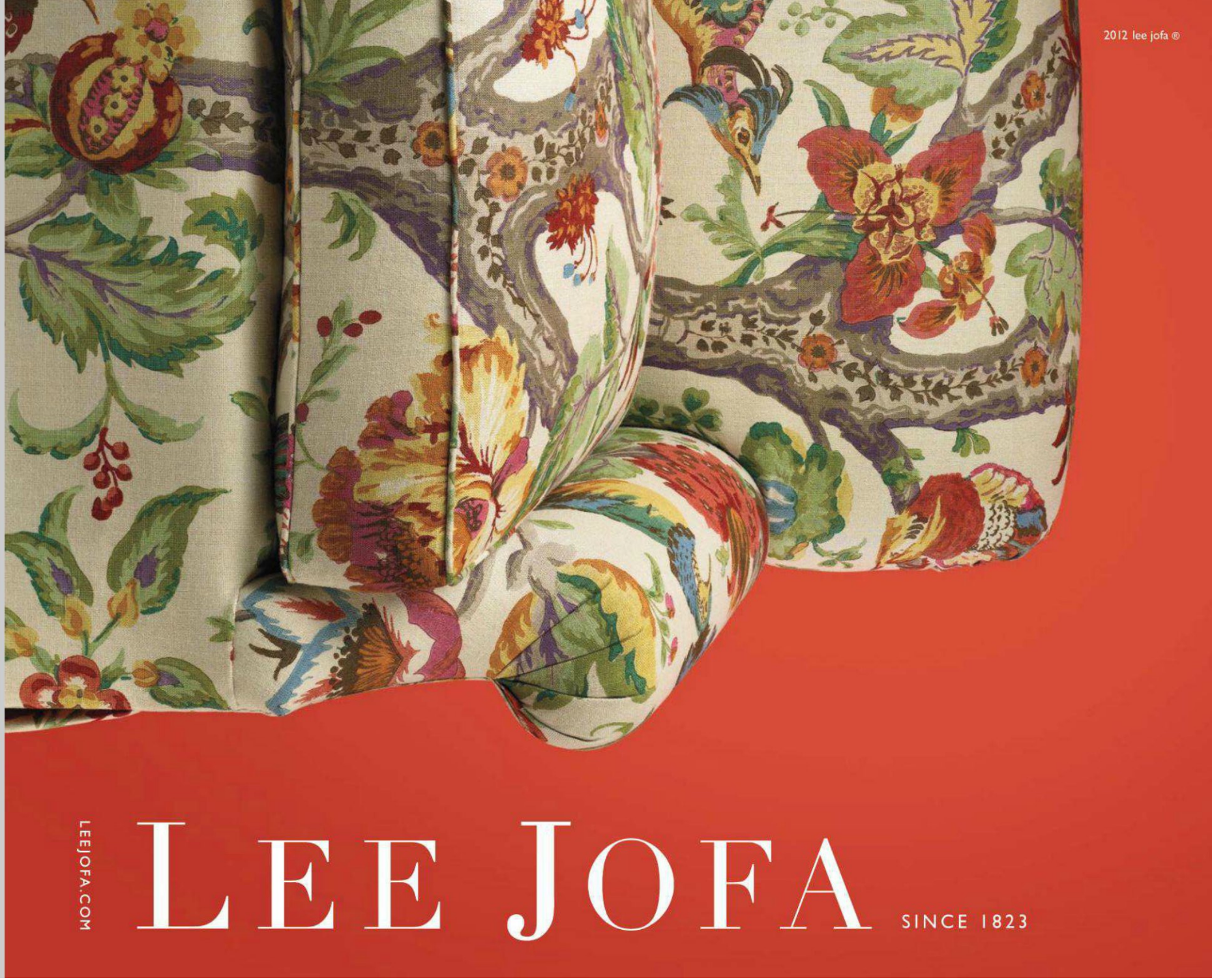

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